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THE
JOURNEY-BOOK OF ENGLAND.

BERKSHIRE:

INCLUDING A

FULL DESCRIPTION OF WINDSOR CASTLE.

Ch. Knight

WITH

TWENTY-THREE ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD, AND AN ILLUMINATED
MAP OF THE COUNTY.



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N O T I C E.

THE present Volume is the first of a Series which it is intended to publish, under the general Title of 'THE JOURNEY-BOOK OF ENGLAND.' The entire Series, if completed in a manner answerable to the wishes and intentions of the Publishers, will form a *Topographical Description of all the English Counties*, permanently useful for general reading and reference as a library work, while each separate volume is intended to serve as an accurate Guide to particular localities. The description of each County will be arranged, for the most part, in the order in which each place actually presents itself on the chief lines of communication; and as *Railways*, in a great degree, already determine the routes of those who journey, whether for business or amusement, especial regard has been had to such an order as may naturally arise out of this great characteristic of the Travelling of England at the present day. This volume, for example, is not only a Topographical Guide to Berkshire, but a Companion to that large portion of the Great Western Railway which runs through forty-five miles of this County. It is necessary to state that the Publishers have the advantage of employing in this Series the Topographical Articles of 'The Penny Cyclopædia,' a body of materials unrivalled for completeness and accuracy. In moulding these articles, with large additions, into their present form, no pains will be spared to bring up the information to the most recent period. The *Illuminated Map*, which will accompany each Volume, will be found, in the clearness which results from its peculiar mode of colouring, superior to any existing County Map on a similar scale.

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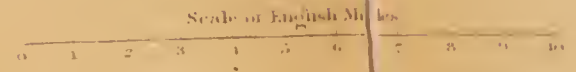
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BERKSHIRE



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The Figures appended to the Market Towns show their distance in Miles from London. The Roads are indicated by the White Lines which cross the Map.



THE JOURNEY-BOOK OF BERKSHIRE.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

THE county which we call Berkshire, or, as it is written by our older topographers, Barkshire, was anciently named by the Latin writers 'Bercheria;' by the Saxons *Beppoc-rycne* (Berroc-scyre), which name Asser *Menevensis* derives from Berroc, a certain wood where grew plenty of box; others from an oak disbarked (which the word *beroke* means), at which, in critical times, the inhabitants used to meet to consult about their affairs. (GOUGH's *Camden*.) In Leland's *Itinerary* (vol. ii. fol. 2) it is called *Barkshir*. The name, whatever be its original meaning, seems to be included in the appellation given by Cæsar (*Bell. Gall.*) to a tribe which inhabited this county—the Bi-broc-i: for bark and broc are in fact the same.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

Berkshire is situated within the basin of the Thames, which forms, in its sinuous course from the neighbourhood of Lechlade in Gloucestershire to below

Windsor, the northern boundary of the county, and separates it from the counties of Gloucester, Oxford, and Bucks, which lie on the other side of the river. The county of Wilts borders Berkshire on the west; the line of division between them, though irregular, has a general bearing N.N.W. and S.S.E. from the bank of the Thames to a few miles south of Hungerford. A line, running with tolerable regularity east and west, and coinciding in one part with the course of the river Emborne, a feeder of the Kennet, and in another part with the course of the river Loddon, a feeder of the Thames, separates the county from Hampshire; and on the south-east a line running north-east and south-west separates it from Surrey.

The dimensions of the county are as follow:—length, east and west from the border of Wiltshire between Hungerford and Lambourn to Old Windsor on the Thames, forty-three miles, nearly; breadth, north and south from the bank of the Thames north west of

Oxford to the border of Hampshire, near Newbury, thirty-one miles, nearly. A line of about fifty-two miles may be drawn from the north-western extremity of the county to Old Windsor, but this line, from the irregularity of the northern boundary, will not lie entirely within the county. The area of the county is given at 758 square miles, equal to

485,120 acres, in the table appended to Arrowsmith's great map of England; or at 752 square miles, or 481,280 acres (or computing by the separate parishes, 472,270 acres), according to the population returns: it therefore forms about one seventy-sixth part of England and Wales.

PHYSICAL TOPOGRAPHY.

SURFACE.

The principal high land in this county consists of a range of downs running W. by N. or W.N.W. from the banks of the Thames between Reading and Wallingford, into the northern part of Wiltshire. These hills, which, with the Marlborough Downs in Wiltshire and the Chilterns of Buckinghamshire, form one chalky range, rise in some parts to a considerable elevation. At Scutchamfly station, on the Cuckhamsley hills, a part of this range, a short distance south-east of Wantage, the height is 853 feet, and the White Horse Hill, which forms a part of the range, and is near the western border of the county, is 893 feet high. It may be observed of the whole chalk range of which these Berkshire hills form a part, that the northern or north-western declivity is more elevated and has a steeper slope than the other. This declivity is also marked by its being bare of wood and covered with a fine turf. These characters are preserved in that part which

lies within Berkshire. The southern slope of the range, which descends to the vale watered by the Kennet, sinks for the most part gently, the chalk disappearing under reddish clay, sand, and gravel. The western part of the chalk range, which is the most elevated, is used for sheep-walks. These are of good quality, but not to be compared in extent with those of Wiltshire or Dorsetshire. The eastern part of the range is sufficiently covered with soil to become arable. The streams which rise on the northern declivity flow into the Thames; those which rise on the southern slope flow into the Kennet, which drains the waters of the south part of the county, or into a small stream which falls into the Thames a few miles above Reading. There are some hills which skirt the valley of the Thames in the northern part of the county, from the neighbourhood of Faringdon to below Oxford. These hills consist of shelly oolite, and calcareous and shelly sand with gritstone. (Greenough's *Geological Map*

of England.) Between these hills and the chalk range already described is the fertile vale of White Horse, which is drained by the Ock. The vale of White Horse opens into the low lands which line the right bank of the Thames from Abingdon to a point a few miles above Wallingford, at which point the vale of Aylesbury, drained by the Thame, opens into the valley of the Thames on the left bank, just below Dorchester. There is some high land (463 feet high in one part) on the border of the county towards Bagshot in Surrey.

RIVERS.

The principal river of Berkshire is the Thames, which however is not, in any part, included within the county, but forms, as already noticed, its northern boundary. The direct distance between the two points where the river first touches the county and where it finally leaves it is about fifty-two miles; but from the winding course of the stream, the distance measured along the bank is 105 to 110 miles. An account of the Thames as a means of traffic and intercourse will be subsequently given. Oxford, Wilts, Berks, Bucks, and parts of Gloucester and Hampshire, comprising an area of about 2500 square miles, are drained by the Upper Thames. After heavy rains the river is occasionally flooded, and the low lands inundated to a considerable extent, the waters of the Kennet and other tributaries being collected into one channel before it reaches Windsor.

The Kennet, which rises in Wiltshire' about four miles N.W. of Silbury Hill, enters the county near Hungerford, having previously served for a short distance as a boundary between Wiltshire and Berkshire. From Hungerford the stream runs eastward (being much divided, and flowing in several channels) by Avington and Kentbury to Newbury, below which it receives the Lambourn, which rises in the chalk hills above the town of the same name. The Kennet then continues its course (being still frequently divided into several smaller streams which again unite) to the village of Aldermaston, and there bending to the north-east to Reading, falls into the Thames a little below that town. That part of its course which can be considered as belonging to this county is about thirty to thirty-two miles; the course of the Lambourn to its junction with the Kennet is about fifteen miles. Both of these rivers produce trout, pike, barbel, eels, crayfish, perch, chub, roach, and dace. The trouts of the Kennet are of great size; those of the Lambourn are of a paler colour and not so much esteemed.

The Loddon rises in Hampshire, and for some distance separates that county from Berkshire, flowing towards the W.N.W. Near the village of Swallowfield it turns to the N.N.E. and flows to Hurst Park, receiving by the way the Emme Brook. From Hurst Park it turns to the N.W. and flows into the Thames between Reading and Henley. Its whole length is nearly thirty miles, of which about six miles are along the

border of Berkshire and twelve within that county. Above its outfall its waters divide, and flow into the Thames by several channels. Leland, in his *Itinerary*, observes that he crossed its different arms by four bridges.

The Ock rises in the western part of the county, runs a general E.N.E. course, and receiving many tributaries by the way, falls into the Thames near Abingdon. Its whole course is about twenty miles. The fish in it are pike, considered remarkably fine, perch, gudgeon, roach, dace, and crayfish.

The Emborne rises in the south-western corner of the county, and flowing eastward, divides it from Hampshire. Near Brimpton it turns to the north, and falls into the Kennet after a course of about eighteen miles.

WOODLANDS.

The south and east sides of Berkshire have a large proportion of woodland. Leland, in his *Itinerary*, vol. ii. fol. 2, speaks of "a great warfeage of timbre and fier wood at the west ende of the (Maidenhead) bridge; and this wood," he adds, "cummith out of Barkshir, and the great woddis of the forest of Windelesore and the greate Frithe." The predominant wood is hazel, intermixed with oak, ash, beech, chestnut, and alder. The whole of the south part of the county was once occupied by the forest of Windsor, which extended in one direction into Buckinghamshire, and in another into Surrey as far as Chertsey, Cobham, and even Guildford, and reached westward so far as Hungerford

along the vale of the Kennet. The vale of the Kennet was disafforested by charter in the year 1226; and a considerable part of Windsor Forest is now in a state of cultivation, an act having passed for its inclosure in the year 1813. A great part of Bagshot Heath was within the boundaries of the forest.

The woods and coppice scattered over the county add to the diversity, which is a beautiful feature in its landscapes as viewed from eminences. Considerable quantities of timber are annually felled, and during the war the finest trees were readily purchased for the dock-yards. The high prices then given have considerably diminished the number of old oaks, but very fine trees may still be found in some of the gentlemen's parks, and occasionally in the hedge-rows, which are still tolerably furnished with timber, of which elm forms a considerable portion. The Forest of Windsor, with the exception of the neighbourhood of the parks, had but few trees on the wastes, and these more picturesque in appearance from their age than valuable as timber. Some of the oldest oaks in Cranbourn Wood are mere hollow trunks, with a few picturesque branches; but there are extensive plantations of recent growth.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Berkshire is one of the most healthy in England. The chalky hills in the western part of the county are remarkable for the invigorating and bracing qualities of the air.

The vales being milder may perhaps suit delicate constitutions better, and having pure streams running through them, which make the air circulate and purify it, they are considered as healthy as the hills. Fevers and epidemic diseases are very rare.

SOIL.

The soil, as may be expected in a county of such extent and so irregular a shape, is extremely varied. In Kennedy and Grainger's 'Tenancy of Land' it is said of the land in Berkshire that "there is but very little of it that unites the qualities of a free-working soil and good substance, it being in general very poor upon the hills, whilst in the lowlands it is cold and laborious to work." The principal hills are composed of chalk; the valleys of different sorts of loam, in which clay predominates, with gravel and sand upon it rising into small elevations. Along the rivers there are alluvial deposits. The whole county seems to lie over chalk or limestone. Windsor Castle, at one extremity, stands on a solitary mass of chalk surrounded by stiff clay. This clay, in some places, has a depth of 300 feet over the chalk, as was found in boring for water near Winkfield plain. The chalk rises to the surface near Maidenhead and Marlow. The chalk, which dips so deep under Windsor Forest, appears again in Hampshire. The clay of the forest is a compact blue clay, of the same nature as that which is usually called the London clay, and in which nearly the whole bed of the

Thames lies, from near Reading to the sea.

Over this clay lies the poor sand and loam impregnated with iron, known by the name of Bagshot-heath land, which extends into Hampshire and Surrey; and also the richer alluvial soils in the valleys, and along the banks of the Thames and the Kennet. Under the vale of White Horse, where the richest soils occur, the chalk runs into a harder limestone of a blue colour, and a free-stone or oolite which composes the Cotswold Hills in Gloucestershire.

In the vale of White Horse are some of the most fertile lands in England. The western part of the vale is chiefly covered with rich pastures, the soil being a good loam on a sound and dry subsoil. Along the bottom of the White Horse hills lies the rich corn-land for which the vale is renowned, intermixed with gravel and sandy loams of an inferior quality, and some very stiff clays. This land is chiefly arable, and is called white land, from the admixture of finely divided calcareous earth in its composition. It has the appearance of an alluvial deposit, enriched by the finer parts of the chalk washed down from the neighbouring hills. Along the Thames is a belt of rich meadows, extending in some places only a very short distance from the river, and no where above two miles. These meadows have not been improved by irrigation so much as they might be, and are chiefly fertilised by the winter and spring floods. The next district in importance, in an agricultural point of view, is the

vale of Kennet, extending along the river of that name, and on the south of the hills above mentioned, from Hungerford to Reading, a distance of about twenty-five miles. The soil of this vale is not so generally fertile as that of White Horse, which is called 'The Vale,' by way of pre-eminence; but its soil is well adapted to the growth of corn; and the inferiority in natural fertility is compensated by superior care in the cultivation.

The soil in this vale is chiefly gravelly, covered with a layer of more or less depth of loam, some of which is of a reddish colour, and may vie in fertility with the white land in the vale of White Horse. On the south of the Kennet are some compact clays, in which oaks thrive, and where good crops of wheat and beans are raised with careful culture. South of Newbury, towards the boundary of the county, the soil becomes less productive, till it assumes the character of the brown heath which indicates the barren ferruginous sand of Bagshot. Along the river Kennet, from Hungerford to Reading, there is a valuable tract of water-meadows, which in some places are capable of considerable improvement by a better distribution and regulation of the waters of the river. These meadows produce much herbage, which is sometimes made into hay, and at other times depastured with sheep and cattle, but the aftermath is not found so good for sheep, being apt to rot them. They are let for spring feed at thirty or forty shillings per acre, the latter having the privilege

of folding the sheep at night, which is an advantage equal to 10s. more. This is from Lady-day to old May-day; after which they will still produce a ton and a-half, or two tons of hay per acre when mown, or the grass may be cut green for cart-horses, which is thought more profitable to a certain extent.

Under the meadows, along part of the Kennet near Newbury, there is a species of peat, which is extensively reduced to ashes by burning, and applied as a top-dressing to clover and artificial grasses. It lies in some places only eighteen inches below the surface, and in others four or five feet. The stratum varies in thickness from one to eight or nine feet. The bottom on which it rests is a gravelly loam with an uneven surface. The true peat is of a compact nature, and is composed almost entirely of vegetable matter. In it are found the remains of trees partly decomposed, and surrounded by a tough mass of decomposed aquatic plants. This peat is dug out, with a long and narrow spade made for the purpose, in oblong pieces, which are laid to dry, and then placed in the form of a dome, and set on fire from below. As the peat begins to burn, more is added, so as to keep up a smothered fire; and in proportion as the heap increases, and the fire becomes more powerful, moister pieces are put on to prevent its breaking out. Thus a large mass of slowly burning peat is formed, which burns for a month or six weeks before the whole is properly converted into ashes. This heap is often three or four yards high,

and fifteen or twenty yards in circumference. As soon as the ashes are cooled the whole is riddled to separate the unburnt clods; and the ashes are used immediately, or stored under cover till they are wanted. The quantity usually put on an acre of young clover is fifteen or twenty bushels: the price at Newbury is fourpence a bushel.

These ashes have been analysed by Sir H. Davy, and found to contain,—oxide of iron, 48;—gypsum, 32;—and muriate and sulphate of potash, 20 per cent. The principal cause of their good effects on green crops and clover-leys is, most probably, the quantity of gypsum which they contain. Between the vale of White Horse and that of the Kennet extends a district of inferior land, partly consisting of chalky hills covered with sheep-walks, and of dales of moderate fertility. The soil is principally calcareous, with variations of clay and gravel.

The chalky hills on the west side of the Thames are separated from the hills in the south-east angle of Oxfordshire by a narrow opening near Goring, through which the river flows: if this opening at any time did not exist, the country above must have had considerable lakes in it, formed by the pent-up waters of the Thames and tributary streams. This may account for the rich alluvial soils found in the vale of White Horse. On the hills which border the Thames there are extensive views over the rich vale of White Horse, and into Oxfordshire; and, in general, the aspect of the country from any con-

siderable hill is that of great richness and variety. No county in England, except Middlesex and the part of Surrey nearest to London, contains so many villas and gentlemen's residences.

The eastern part of the country, or the Windsor Forest district, though less fertile, is not less inviting as to situation. The hills from Egham to Bray are covered with very fine old and young plantations, and form the picturesque scenery of Windsor Great Park. This forms a contrast with the open heath extending to Bagshot, which was divided and inclosed in the year 1813, when the forestal rights were abolished by act of parliament. These rights, if claimed to their full extent, would have been extremely burdensome, and not readily submitted to in these times. While they existed, they had a visible influence on the agriculture of the district, and greatly retarded its progress, in spite of the example of George III.

The parishes contained within the Forest of Windsor were Old Windsor New Windsor, Winkfield, Sunninghill, Binfield, Easthampstead, Sandhurst, Finchampstead, Barkham, Wokingham, Arborfield, and Swallowfield; and parts of Clewer, Bray, and Hurst. The open uninclosed forest in all these parishes amounted to about 24,000 acres, very little of which would repay the expense of cultivation; and much of it remains now in its original state, although divided and inclosed. The allotments given to the crown, under the Inclosure Act of 1813, amounting to above one-fourth of the whole, have been mostly planted.

The soil in the forest district is extremely various : along the Thames, in the parishes of Old and New Windsor, Clewer, and Bray, there are excellent meadows, and some very good arable land, consisting of loam and gravel. To the south, along the hills, which extend at the distance of two or three miles from the river, the soil is a very tenacious clay, better adapted for grass than for corn. The cultivation of it, as arable land, is laborious and expensive, from the necessity of bringing chalk from a distance to correct its cold nature, and neutralise the large portion of iron and saline substances which it contains. The waters found in the land springs, and within a certain depth in this soil, are more or less impregnated with sulphates and muriates of soda and magnesia ; so that in many places mineral wells have been discovered, and occasionally much frequented by invalids for their purgative qualities. Of these there are several in Windsor Great Park, St. Leonard's Hill, Winkfield Plain, where a regular pump-room has been fitted up, and in Winkfield Park ; this last was formerly in some

repute. The spring at Sunninghill was celebrated in a poem entitled 'Heliocrene,' published in 1744. Beyond these clay hills, as we go south from the river, the soil becomes lighter, and gradually changes into a poor light loam, then a sand and gravel, which diminishes in fertility till it becomes the poor thin soil of Bagshot Heath, in which the impregnation of carbonate of iron is so strong as to deposit the iron in the brooks in the form of a rusty powder.

The old inclosures in the forest were chiefly pastures. The arable land was confined to common fields, which were of very inferior value, owing to the right of pasture over them after a certain time of the year ; and while the pastures let for nearly the same rent a century ago as they do now, the arable common land let for only one-fourth of its present value ; but the pastures enabled the occupier to keep sheep and cattle on the extensive commons, on which was his chief reliance for profit. Since the inclosure of the forest, arable land has improved, and pastures have decreased in value.

CIVIL, MILITARY, AND ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.

The Atrebates, or Atrebatii, are considered to have been the tribe inhabiting this district ; their name points them out as a colony of the Atrebates (people of Artois) in Gaul, who were, as

Cæsar informs us, Belgæ, and of Germanic origin. (*De Bell. Gall.* ii. 4.) Mr. Whitaker, and some other modern antiquaries, consider that the Bibroci inhabited the hundred of Bray, and the

Segontiaci a small part of the county bordering on Hampshire. The Bibroci and Segontiaci, and perhaps the Atrebates (for some consider these to be the people mentioned by Cæsar under the name of Ancalites), submitted to Cæsar when he crossed the Thames in pursuit of Cassivelaunus, and advanced into the heart of the country. In the division made by the Romans of that part of the island which they reduced to subjection, Berkshire appears to have been included in *Britannia prima*.

Of this remote period Berkshire retains some memorials in the traces of ancient roads and other antiquities. The roads or parts of roads run in different directions. The most marked is a part of that which led from Glevum (Gloucester) to Londinium (London). It enters Berkshire from Wiltshire, not far from Lambourn, and runs south-east to Spinæ (Speen), where it appears to have met another Roman road from Aquæ Solis (Bath) to Londinium (London). From Spinæ its course to Londinium does not appear to have been ascertained, though some traces of it appear on Bagshot Heath, where it is vulgarly called 'the Devil's Highway.' The traces of other Roman roads are not of any great extent or importance. The Ikeneld Street (of British origin) passed through Berkshire, but its course is disputed. Some consider 'the Ridge Way,' which runs along the edge of the chalk range over East and West Ilsley Downs, Cuckhamsley Hills, &c., to be the true Ikeneld Street; while others contend for a line of road under the

same range through or near Blewbury, Wantage, Sparsholt, &c. To the west of Wantage, where this last line is most clearly to be traced, it is called Ickleton Way. (Lysons's *Magna Britannia*; Wise's *Account of some Antiquities in Berkshire*.)

The only Roman station in the county, the site of which has been satisfactorily settled, is Spinæ. The name and the distances agree in identifying it with Speen, a village near Newbury. Yet it is remarkable that no Roman remains appear to have been discovered here—none at least sufficient to show the existence of such a station. Bibracte, mentioned in the twelfth *iter* of Richard of Cirencester, is fixed by Whitaker at Bray; though the distance between Londinium and Bibracte differs so much from that between London and Bray as to occasion great difficulty. Pontes, another Roman station, has been fixed by Horsley (*Britannia Romana*) near Old Windsor, but others prefer Staines, in Middlesex. Calleva or Caleva was thought by Camden to have been Wallingford; but though the remains of Roman antiquity found there point out Wallingford as the site of an important Roman station, yet the situation assigned to Calleva in the Itinerary of Antoninus cannot be made to agree with Wallingford, the Roman name of which is therefore unknown to us. Calleva has also been fixed by conjecture at Coley Manor, near Reading; but Silchester in Hampshire, just on the border of this county, is more generally preferred.

The vallum, which appears to have surrounded the town of Wallingford, was unquestionably a Roman work; at the south-west angle it is very entire for the space of about 270 paces on the south side, and 370 on the west. This vallum is single, and appears to have had a wet ditch, which rendered it very secure.

There are remains of camps in several parts of the county, supposed to have been occupied by the Romans, though some of them are probably of British origin. Uffington Castle, an oval earth work on the summit of White Horse Hill, 700 feet in diameter from east to west, and 500 feet from north to south, is one of these. It is surrounded by a double vallum, or embankment, the inner one high, and commanding an extensive view in every direction, the outer one slighter. Letcome or Sagbury Castle, on Letcome Downs, north-east of Lambourn, is almost circular, has a double vallum, and incloses an area of nearly twenty-six acres. Another camp or earth-work, called Hardwell Camp, is about half a mile north-west of Uffington Castle; it is an entrenchment of square form, where not broken by the steep edge of the hill, surrounded by a double vallum, and in size about 140 paces by 180. Near Little Coxwell, in the neighbourhood of Faringdon, are the remains of a square camp; and at the other extremity of the county there is a strong entrenchment, of irregular form, on Bagshot Heath, near Easthampstead, 560 paces in length, and 280 in breadth near the

middle: it is supposed to be a Roman work, and is commonly called 'Cæsar's Camp.' Remains of works, British or Roman, are also found near the road from Abingdon to Faringdon, five or six miles from the latter (Cherbury Camp), and on Sinodun Hill, near Wittenham, on the Thames. There are circular camps near Ashdown Park, a little way from Lambourn (Ashbury Camp, or Alfred's Castle), and on Badbury Hill, not far from Faringdon; but of the probable origin of the former we have no information—perhaps it was Danish, as also the latter is supposed to be.

Many barrows are found, especially one on the chalk hills north of Lambourn. A curious stone, called 'the blowing stone,' is situate at Kingston Lisle, five miles due north of Lambourn. Of this and the other antiquities of this curious district, a detailed account will be found in its proper place.

When the Saxons became possessed of South Britain, Berkshire was included in the kingdom of the West Saxons. It was partly wrested from them by the powerful and ambitious Offa, king of the Mercians. At what time it returned under the sway of the West Saxon kings we are not aware; probably it was when Egbert elevated Wessex to a permanent superiority over the other parts of the Saxon Octarchy. It formed part of Wessex under the reign of Ethelwulph (son of Egbert), whose youngest son, the great Alfred, was born at Wantage in this county. In the reign of Ethelred I., the brother and immediate predecessor of Alfred, the

Danes invaded Berkshire, and possessed themselves of Reading. Here they were attacked by the West Saxons : in the first engagement the Danes were defeated, but in the second they repulsed their assailants. Four days afterwards at *Æscesdun*, *i. e.*, Ash-tree-hill, a more important battle was fought in which both Ethelred and Alfred were present, and in which the Danes were defeated with great slaughter. The site of this *Æscesdun* has been much disputed. Wise, in his *Letter to Dr. Mead, concerning some Antiquities in Berkshire*, contends for the ridge of the chalk hills extending from Wantage into Wiltshire, and thinks that the White Horse, cut on the hill, is a memorial of the victory. Aston, a village near Wallingford and Ashampstead, a village about equally distant from Wallingford, Newbury, and Reading, have each their partisans. Mr. Turner (*History of the Anglo-Saxons*) inclines to the opinion that Merantune (where shortly afterwards the Saxons sustained a severe defeat, in which Ethelred was mortally wounded) was Moreton, near Wallingford.

In the war with the Danes during the reign of Ethelred II., Berkshire was laid waste with fire and sword. The barbarous invaders burnt Reading, Wallingford, and other places. This was in 1006. At the time of the Norman invasion, William the Conqueror received at Wallingford the submission of the Archbishop Stigand and of the principal barons, before he marched to London.

In the civil war consequent upon the usurpation of Stephen Berkshire was again the seat of war. Brian Fitzcourt, who had come by marriage into possession of Wallingford Castle, early took the side of the Empress Maud ; and his castle afforded her a secure retreat when she fled from Oxford. Faringdon Castle, which was erected by Robert, earl of Gloucester, natural brother of the empress, was taken by Stephen, and so completely demolished, that not a vestige now remains. When John rebelled against his brother, Richard I., he seized Wallingford and Windsor Castles, but they were taken from him again by the barons in the king's interest, and placed in the hands of the queen dowager. The strength of these two fortresses rendered them important, as military stations, in the troubles which took place during the latter part of the reign of John, and during the reign of Henry III. In 1263, Windsor Castle was taken by Simon de Montfort. During this early part of our history, the palace at Old Windsor, or the castle at New Windsor, was the frequent residence of the king.

Of the castles of this period there are few remains except at Windsor.

Of Wallingford Castle, the ditches and earthworks, which are of great extent, and a fragment of a wall are the only remains. Donnington Castle near Newbury is said to have been founded in or near the time of Richard II. It is often asserted that Chaucer the poet was possessor and inhabitant of this place. Camden, who calls it Den-

nington or Dunnington, describes it as a small but elegant castle, on the top of a woody hill, commanding a pleasant prospect, and lighted by windows on every side. It suffered so much, however, during the civil war, that only a gateway with two towers is remaining now. The very sites of the castles at Reading, Newbury, Faringdon, and Brightwell, near Wallingford, are unknown. Aldworth Castle, about five miles south-east of East Ilsley, has scarcely a vestige left: some foundations of walls built with flints have been lately dug up.

There is an old manor-house at Appleton, not far from Oxford, supposed to be of the time of Henry II.; and there are other ancient manor or other dwelling-houses at Witham and Cumnor, near Oxford; Little or East Shefford, between Newbury and Lambourn; Sutton Courtney, near Abingdon; and Ockholt manor-house, near Maidenhead. Ockholt manor-house is an ancient seat of the Norreys family, now a farmhouse. It was built before the Reformation.

During the prevalence of the Roman Catholic faith many religious houses were built and endowed in Berkshire. Tanner's *Notitia Monastica* contains a list of thirty-five religious establishments of all kinds; three of which were numbered at the Reformation among the 'greater monasteries,' and possessed a clear revenue of 200*l.* per annum.* The most important by far of

these establishments were the Benedictine abbeys of Abingdon and Reading. Abingdon Abbey appears to have been originally founded upon a hill called Abendune, about two miles from the present town, nearer Oxford, by Cissa, a West Saxon, governor of great part of Berks and Wilts, under Kentwin, king of the West Saxons. Five years after its foundation this monastery was removed to a place then called Sevekisham or Seovechesham, or Seusham, and since then Abbendon or Abingdon, and enriched by the munificence of Ceadwalla and Ina, kings of Wessex, and other benefactors. The abbey was destroyed by the Danes, and the monks deprived of their chief possessions by Alfred the Great; but the possessions were restored, and the rebuilding of the abbey commenced at least, by Edred, grandson and one of the successors of Alfred. Numerous benefactions increased the wealth of the establishment, and the abbot was mitred. The yearly income at the time of the suppression was 2042*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* gross, or 1876*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* clear. Reading Abbey was also for Benedictines, and the abbot was mitred. This abbey was founded by King Henry I., A.D. 1121, and richly endowed. At the suppression it had 2116*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* gross, or 1938*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* clear yearly income. There are some remains of both these great establishments. Those at Reading consist of the gateway and of some other ruins, which are little more than rude heaps

* It may be mentioned here that Speed's valuation

is that of the gross income; Dugdale's valuation is the clear yearly income.

of stone, all architectural decoration having been defaced. The Abbey Mills are still remaining. At Abingdon some ancient rooms are occupied as a brewery; and the gateway of the abbey is, or was lately, still used as a prison.

At Bustlesham, or Bysham Montague, now Bisham, on the banks of the Thames, nearly opposite Marlow, in Buckinghamshire, was a priory for canons, of the order of St. Austin, founded 1338, by William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury. Their yearly revenue, at the suppression, was 327*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* gross, or 285*l.* 11*s.* clear. Upon the surrender of this monastery to Henry VIII., it was refounded for the Benedictines, its revenue more than doubled, and the abbot mitred; but this new establishment was also suppressed four or five years after. There are no remains of the conventual buildings, except an ancient doorway, now the entrance of a somewhat later edifice, the seat of a branch of the Vansittart family.

Of the minor establishments there are some remains. Of the church of the Grey Friars (Franciscans) at Reading there are considerable remains, now used as a Bridewell: there are also some ruins of the Benedictine monastery at Hurley, between Maidenhead and Henley-upon-Thames, and of the buildings for the priests and clerks of a former collegiate church at Wallingford, though the church itself has been entirely destroyed. The parish church at Shottesbroke, near Maidenhead, once belonged to the college of St. John the Baptist there.

Of the churches of earlier date, Avington deserves mention, from its remarkable specimens of Norman (or as it is sometimes termed Saxon) architecture. The arch which divides the chancel from the nave is a portion of two arches, and each portion being more than a quadrant, the arch has a depending point in the middle. Portions of the Norman style may be observed in St. Nicholas Church at Abingdon, and in other places. Wilford Church, between Newbury and Lambourn, has a Norman round tower, surmounted by a portion in the early English style, and a spire in the decorated English. As some part of the body of the church is in the perpendicular style, this church contains examples of all the different styles of what is usually called Gothic architecture. Great Shefford Church, not far from Welford, has a round tower, surmounted by an octangular story. Shottesbroke Church is a beautiful miniature cross church, with a tower and spire at the intersection. Uffington church, also in the shape of a cross, is large and handsome. St. Lawrence's Church at Reading has a fine tower of chequered flint-work in the perpendicular style.

In the civil war between Charles I. and the Parliament, Berkshire became the scene of several remarkable contests. Windsor was garrisoned by the parliament, and continued in their possession throughout the war. It was once attacked by Prince Rupert, but he was unsuccessful. Wallingford was garrisoned for the king, and continued in

the hands of the Royalists as long as they were capable of making any stand. In 1642, the first year of the war, the king's army gained possession of Reading, the Parliamentary garrison retreating upon their approach, and the county, with the exception of the parts round Windsor, came into the power of the Royalists; but in April, 1643, the Parliamentary forces, under the Earl of Essex and Major-General Skippon, retook Reading by capitulation. In the latter part of the same year was fought the first battle of Newbury, between the Parliamentarians, under the Earl of Essex, and the Royalists, commanded by the king in person. The victory was doubtful; but the action has been rendered memorable by the fall of the accomplished Lord Falkland. The town of Reading fell into the hands of the Royalists soon after, and was garrisoned by them, but evacuated the following year. In 1644, Donnington Castle, which was held for the king by a garrison under Captain John Boys, was besieged by a strong detachment of the opposite party; but though the place was reduced to a heap of ruins,

the gallant defenders held out and the Parliamentarians raised the siege upon the king's approach. Shortly after (viz. 27th October, 1644) a second battle was fought at Newbury, with the same indecisive result which attended the former one. The king commanded his own troops, and the Earls of Essex and Manchester, and Sir William Waller, those of the parliament. No person of note fell in the battle. The army of the Earl of Essex wintered this year in the county, at Abingdon, Reading, &c. The rest of the war was not marked by any great event. In 1645 Sir Stephen Hawkins made an unsuccessful attempt on the Parliamentary garrison at Abingdon; and Cromwell failed in an attack upon Faringdon, but fought a successful skirmish at Radcot Bridge in that neighbourhood, and took 200 prisoners. In 1646 Prince Rupert attacked Abingdon again, but with success.

A slight skirmish occurred at Reading in 1688, and a trifling affair at Twyford, between Reading and Maidenhead. These were the only actions which occurred during the civil war by which that year was distinguished.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY.

THE general state of agriculture in Berkshire is neither of the most improved kind, nor yet to be greatly found fault with. The number of rich proprietors who hold land to some extent in their own hands is considerable. They employ intelligent bailiffs, and improved

modes of cultivation are readily tried by them. The most perfect machines and implements may be found on their farms, and everything new finds some person ready to give it a trial; but there are many obstacles to their general adoption. Old methods keep a certain hold

of practical men, and it is very fortunate that it is so; for no new method should be generally adopted till long experience has proved its utility. The two extremes, of an obstinate adherence to a decidedly bad system, and an incautious adoption of new inventions are equally unreasonable.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

The system generally adopted throughout the county by intelligent farmers is only a modification of the ancient triennial rotation. The basis is a clean fallow, for which turnips are substituted on the light soils: then two or three crops of corn, with an alternation of clover, tares, or beans between them, which are considered as less exhausting. The nature of the crops and the recurrence of the fallows depend on the nature of the land, on the seasons, and also on the care with which the first fallow has been cleaned, and the crops have been weeded or hoed. It is the appearance of weeds that gives notice of the necessity of a fallow. A good rotation strictly adhered to would be better for general adoption; and a more extensive cultivation of artificial grasses would keep more live stock, and make more manure. In the rich soils of the Vale great crops of corn are frequently obtained with little trouble, and this always makes careless farmers. They know the advantage of manure, and will spare no expense to purchase it, but the real secret of agriculture is to make it at home and at the least expense, which can only be done by means of live stock, and raising food for cattle.

SIZE OF FARMS.

There are in Berkshire a great many small proprietors, or yeomen, who cultivate their own farms, consisting of forty, fifty, or eighty acres. They live frugally, and the times do not much affect them; but they have no inclination to try new schemes; the old methods satisfy them; and if they can live and pay their way they are contented. The number of occupiers employing labourers is 1711, and there are 458 occupiers who usually perform the work of their farms with the assistance of their own families. The size of the farms in Berkshire varies considerably: in the chalky districts they are large—some containing a thousand acres; but in the richer soils they are mostly from one hundred to four hundred acres: in the forest district they are in general of small extent. Arable land lets from 10s., and even less, to 2*l.* per acre; the average may be about 25s.; upland meadows from 1*l.* to 2*l.*, and along the rivers 2*l.* to 3*l.*; irrigated meadows 4*l.* to 5*l.* Farm out-buildings are chiefly thatched and sided with weather-boarding.

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY.

The old implements of husbandry have been much improved of late years. The heavy Berkshire plough, drawn by four or five horses in a line, has given place to the lighter Scotch and Norfolk ploughs with two horses abreast, or in very wet and stiff soils with three in a line; more are seldom used, except to break up grass land, or when the ploughing has been deferred till the ground is

very hard. Improved agricultural instruments are manufactured at Newbury and at Reading. Drilling machines on the most improved principle, and on Cook's plan, are made at Hook in Hampshire, and pretty generally dispersed through Berkshire. The introduction of these and other improved instruments has been much encouraged by the example of King George III. and the late Duke of Gloucester, whose farming establishment at Rapleys, near Bagshot Park, was on the most improved principles. Drilling the seed is becoming more general than it used to be; and several professional drillmen find it a profitable employment of a small capital to purchase the most improved machines, with which they drill the seed for the smaller farmers, who cannot afford such expensive implements. The farmer finds the horses and a man to drive them, and sends the drill to its next destination when his corn is drilled. The price paid for the use of the drilling machine is from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per acre, with food for the drillman, who is the proprietor of the drill, or his servant. They drill about ten or twelve acres in a day, with two horses and two men. This division of labour, which is a certain sign of improvement, is chiefly found in the best cultivated districts, as in Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, where there are still many small farms.

Threshing machines were common in many parts of the county, both fixed and moveable; but during the disturbances in 1831 many of them were de-

stroyed, and the corn is now chiefly threshed by hand, there being always a superabundance of agricultural labourers.

MARKET GARDENS.

Near Reading there are considerable garden grounds, the soil being deep and good, and the produce coming earlier to maturity than in any other part of the county. The onions, and especially the asparagus, of Reading, are remarkably fine, and in great demand in the season. Orchards are not very numerous, and fewer than they were at one time, when cider was a more common beverage of the farmer. The apples which grow in the Vale, where there are some good orchards, are mostly sent to London. About Wantage are some cherry orchards, the produce of which is great in good years, but it is a very precarious crop.

COPPICES AND OSIERIES.

The coppices in general are valuable; and where water-carriage is near, which is the case in almost every part of the county, the produce is sent to London, in the shape of hoops, broomsticks, and other rough manufactures. They are usually cut every ten years, and when well managed produce from 10*l.* to 15*l.* per acre, at every cutting.

Along the Thames, and in the low islands which are frequently covered with water, there are numerous osier beds, which are cut every year to make baskets, and are considered as a very valuable property.

CATTLE, &c.

There is no peculiar breed of cattle indigenous in Berkshire, and those generally met with are imported from Devonshire, Herefordshire, and Yorkshire. The Glamorganshire cows are in considerable repute in some districts; but the breeds are much mixed and crossed, and not always with the greatest attention or judgment. Alderney cows, which are annually imported, are very common for the supply of butter and cream in gentlemen's families. Some very good cows have been produced by crosses of Alderneys with larger breeds. Oxen are not generally used in agriculture, although a few teams are kept on some large farms, and the work of the king's Norfolk farm in Windsor Park was at one time entirely done by oxen. They are still employed in carting, rolling, and drawing timber in the park, where the sod being soft for their feet, they can work without being shod. They are worked four at a time, and only five days in the week, and in this manner stand their work well.

A considerable number of horses are bred in Berkshire, chiefly of the cart kind; and many colts are brought young from Northamptonshire, and kept for two or three years with gentle work. They are then sent to London as dray horses, and in general obtain very good prices. In this manner horses used in husbandry, instead of losing in value, are often a source of greater profit than oxen worked two or three years, and then fatted off.

No great quantity of fat cattle is sent from Berkshire to London. In the Vale of White Horse there are many dairies, and the cheese made here is known in the London market under the name of single and double Gloucester, and North Wiltshire. In the eastern part of the county a good many calves are suckled, and are found on the whole more profitable than butter or cheese, and attended with much less trouble: but the chief advantage of calves is the addition which they make to the dung of the yard, when they have a liberal allowance of straw often renewed. This also constitutes the chief profit of keeping pigs.

The breed of pigs in Berkshire is one of the best in England. They are not of a very large size, although many, fattened at two years old, weigh twenty score when killed, and some even more. The most common weight is from twelve to fifteen score: the bone is small, and they fatten at an early age and on little food—two important qualities. The true Berkshire breed is black with white spots, but some are quite white: their snouts are short, jowls thick, and their ears stand up. A mixed breed, produced by crossing the Berkshire with the Chinese and Neapolitan breeds, possesses improved qualities, although rather susceptible of cold from being nearly without hair; but they are superior to most breeds for getting rapidly fat, and keeping in excellent condition on pasture, with very little additional food. G. H. Crutchley, Esq., of Sunning-hill Park, has a choice breed of this

kind; and most of the cottagers' pigs in the Forest district are of a superior description. Bacon is the principal animal food of the labourers, and they are good judges of its qualities.

The Berkshire sheep, called the *not*, was a large polled sheep, with coarse wool, useful for the fold on cold clay soils, but coarse in the carcase. It is now almost superseded by an improved breed produced by crosses from the old sheep and the Leicesters, and by the South Down, which are now the favourite breeds. Some of the Cotswold sheep, crossed with the Leicester, produce a large sheep, which gets very fat, and carries a heavy fleece of long wool: some of these were lately purchased to send to Belgium, to improve the sheep in that country. Merinos were introduced by George III., who had a flock from Spain, and were at first in great request, on account of the fineness of their wool; but they have not proved a profitable stock, owing perhaps to want of proper management, and chiefly because they did not produce so good car-

cases for the butcher, which is now the chief profit of the sheep. In Saxony the wool is the principal object; and so much attention has been paid to the Spanish flocks transplanted into that country, that their wool exceeds the original Spanish wool in fineness. Before the inclosure of Windsor Forest there was a breed of small ragged-looking sheep, with a light fleece of tolerably good short wool, called the heath sheep, which, when fattened at three or four years old, produced the fine flavoured Bagshot mutton, much prized by gourmands. These sheep were bred and kept in the wastes of the forest, and sent annually in large flocks into Buckinghamshire to be folded on the fallows. Not being well attended to, many of them died; and sometimes, in a wet spring, whole flocks were swept off by the rot; they cost the proprietor little, and produced in general but small profit: they may still be seen, although in diminished numbers, on the heaths of Surrey and Hampshire which are still uninclosed.

POLITICAL TOPOGRAPHY.

CIVIL DIVISIONS.

WHEN the Domesday Survey was made Berkshire was divided into twenty-two hundreds; Wallingford and Windsor were assessed separately. The hundreds have since been reduced to twenty, of which eleven retain their ancient names under a somewhat modernised

form. An attempt was made by Lord Chancellor Clarendon to transfer to Berkshire that part of the parish of Wokingham which is part of Wiltshire, although surrounded by Berks; but the bill was rejected. A modern attempt (A. D. 1825) failed in like manner. (*Rickman, Preface to Population Re-*

turns.) We give the ancient hundreds, placing in a line with them the modern hundreds, with which they for the most part coincide, and also the part of the county in which they are situated. N. north; S. south, &c.; C. central.

Ancient.	Modern.
Benes, or Beners	Barnesh, or Beyn-hurst, E.
Blitberie (Blewbury.)	Moreton, N.E.
Borchedeberie, or Borcheldeberie, (Bucklebury)	Faircross, C. and S. and Reading, N.E.
Bray	Bray, E.
Cerledone	Charlton, S., Sonning, or Sunning, E., Wargrave, E.
Cheneteberie, } united Eglei,	Kintbury-Eagle, C. and S.W.
Eletesford, Helitesford, or Heslitedford.	Moreton, N.E., and Cookham, S.E.
Gamesfel	Ganfield, N.W.
Hilleslau	Shrivenham, N.W.
Hornimere	Hormer, N.
Lamborne, or Lambourn	Lambourn, W.
Merceham (Marcham)	Ock, N. and N.E.
Nachededorne	Compton, C., and Faircross C., and S.
Radinges or Redinges	Reading, & Theale, N.E.
Riplesmere	Ripplesmere, and Wargrave, E.
Roeberg	Faircross, C. and S.
Seriveham, or Shrivenham	Shrivenham, N.W.
Sudtone (Sutton)	Ock, or Oke, N. and N.E.
Tacceham (Thatcham)	Faircross, C. and S., and Reading N.E.
Wanating, or Wanting.	Wantage, C.
Wifol	Faringdon, N.W., and Shrivenham E.

Camden gives the number of parishes

in the county at 140; Lysons gives them at 148. By a comparison of the lists contained in the population returns with the best maps, the number may be thus stated:—Parishes wholly in Berks, 142; parishes partly in other counties, but which have either the church or the principal group of houses in Berkshire, and may be therefore reckoned in that county, 9; parishes partly included in Berks, but chiefly in other counties, 5; total, 156. The parishes which, though partly in other counties may be most properly reckoned in Berkshire, are Sunning, Langford, and Shilton (partly in Oxfordshire), and Coleshill, Hungerford, Hurst (parochial chapelry), Shalbourn, Shinfield, and Wokingham (partly in Wilts). The parishes which rather belong to other counties are Great Barrington, (chiefly in Gloucestershire), St. Aldate's (chiefly in the city of Oxford). Strathfieldsay (chiefly in Hants), and Inglesham and Swallowfield (chiefly in Wilts). The number of places making returns, under the census of 1831, was 222.

The number of vicarages is considerable; in Lysons's *Magna Britannia*, where the parishes are given at 148, the number of vicarages is given at 67. The county is wholly in the diocese of Salisbury, and in the ecclesiastical province of Canterbury, and forms an archdeaconry by itself: the archdeacon takes his title from the county. It is divided into four rural deaneries—Abingdon, Newbury, Reading, and Wallingford. The following is a Table of the value of the Livings, as exhibited in the Report

of the "Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Ecclesiastical Revenues," 1835 :—

	£.
Abingdon, St. Helen's, V. with St. Nicholas, R.	225
Aldermaston, V.	*
Appleton, R.	307
Arborfield, R.	345
Ardington, V.	*
Ashbury, V.	375
Aston Tirrold, R.	233
Avington, R.	300
Barkham, R.	350
Basildon, V., with Ashampstead, C.	255
Beedon, V.	126
Beenham Valence, V.	211
Binfield, R.	628
Bisham, V.	156
Bishopston, V.	208
Bishopstone, R. and V.	896
Bishopstrow, R.	220
Blakeland, R.	160
Blewbury, V., with Aston Upthorpe, C., and Upton, C.	161
Bradfield, R.	788
Bray, V.	500
Bright Waltham, R.	700
Brightwell, R.	674
Brimpton, V.	*
Buckland, V.	291
Bucklebury, V., with Marlston, C.	453
Burghfield, R.	810
Buscot, R.	450
Catmere, R.	180
Chaddleworth, V.	272
Chalfield, R.	162
Charlton, V.	100
Chieveley, V., with Oare, C., Winterbourne, C., and Leckhampstead, C.	1,174
Childrey, R.	604
Chilton, R.	400
Cholsey, V., with Moulsoford, C.	358
Clewer, R.	468
Compton, V.	330
Compton Basset, R.	497
Compton Beauchamp, R.	333
Cookham, V.	300

* No Return.

	£.
Denchworth, V.	130
Dudcote, R.	397
Eaton Hastings, R.	280
Enborne, R.	416
Englefield, R.	303
Farnborough, R.	291
Faringdon, Great, V., with Little Coxwell, C.	265
Finchampstead, R.	500
Frilsham, R.	131
Fyfield, P. C.	125
Garston, East, V.	239
Grove in Wantage, P. C.	30
Hagborn, V.	165
Hampstead, East, R.	478
Hampstead Norris, V.	400
Hampstead Marshall, R.	269
Hanney, V., with Lyford, C.	205
Halford, R.	322
Hendred, East, R.	544
Hendred, West, V.	613
Hinksey, North, P. C.	105
Hinksey, South, P. C. with Wootton, C.	183
Hinton Waldrist, R.	370
Hurley, V.	163
Ilsley, East, R.	645
Ilsley, West, R.	537
Inkpen, R.	520
Kingston Bagpuze, R.	298
Kintbury, V.	607
Lambourn, V.	104
Letcomb Basset, R.	215
Letcomb Regis, V., with East Challow, C.	200
Lockinge, East, R.	400
Longworth, R., with Charney, C.	682
Maidenhead, St. Andrew and St. Mary, C.	172
Mareham, V., with Garford, C.	455
Milton, R.	*
Moreton, North, V.	83
Moreton, South, R.	199
Newbury, R.	455
Overton, V., with Fyfield, V., and Alton Priors, C.	319
Padworth, R.	240
Pangbourn, R.	430

* No Return.

	£.
Peasemore, R.	950
Prince's Harwell, V.	220
Purley, R.	281
Pusey, R.	163
Reading, St. Giles, V.	522
Reading, St. Lawrence, V.	276
Reading, St. Mary, V.	661
Remenham, R.	337
Ruscomb, P. C.	30
Sandhurst, P. C.	118
Shalbourn, V.	271
Shaw, R.	474
Shefford, East, R.	400
Shefford, West, R.	856
Shellingford, R.	497
Shrivenham, V., with Longcot, C.	676
Sonning	451
Sparsholt, V., with Kingston Lisle, C.	363
Speen, V., with Speenhamland, C.	424
Stanford Dingley, R.	275
Stanford-in-the-Vale, with Goosey, C.	337
Stratfield Mortimer, V.,	176
Streatley, V.	276
Sulham, R.	*
Sulhampstead Abbott's, R. with Sulhampstead Bannister, R.	600
Sunninghill, V.	328
Sunningwell, R., with Kennington, C.	318
Sutton Courtney, V., with Appleford, C.	148
Thatcham, V., with Greenham, C., and Midgham, C.	420
Tidmarsh, R.	223
Tilehurst, V., with Theale, C.	*
Tubney, R.	120
Uffington, V., with Woolstone, C., and Baulking, C.	369
Upton Nivet, R.	426
Wallingford, St. Leonard's, R., with Sotewell, C.	153
Wallingford, St. Mary, R.	137
Wallingford, St. Peter, R.	100
Waltham, St. Lawrence, V.	211
Wantage, V.	503
Warfield, V.	150
Wargrave, V.	226
Wasing, R.	100

* No Return.

	£.
Welford, R., with Wickham, C.	1,364
Windsor, New, V.	400
Windsor, Old, V.	270
Winkfield, V.	343
Wittenham, Earl's, V.	166
Wittenham, Little, R.	400
Wokingham, P. C.	126
Woodhay, West, R.	260
Woolhampton, R.	202
Wytham, R.	306
Yattendon, R.	384

Berkshire is in the Oxford circuit: Reading and Abingdon are the assize towns. The Lent or Spring assizes are held at Reading, the Summer assizes at Abingdon. The quarter sessions for the county are held as follow: Epiphany at Reading, Easter at Newbury, Hilary at Abingdon, and Michaelmas either at Abingdon or Reading, as the magistrates shall determine. There are six divisions of petty sessions, and in 1831 there were 123 acting county magistrates.

Nine members are returned to parliament from Berkshire—three for the county itself, two each for Reading and New Windsor, and one each for Abingdon and Wallingford. The number of county electors in 1836 was 5632, of whom 4779 voted at the general election in 1837; the number of electors in each hundred being as follows:—

Beynhurst	137
Bray	235
Charlton	233
Compton	104
Cookham	325
Faircross	726*
Faringdon	184
Ganfield	160
Horner	244†

* Bright-Waltham omitted. † One parish omitted.

Kentbury Eagle . . .	408
Lambourn . . .	123
Moreton . . .	340
Ock . . .	291*
Reading . . .	754
Ripplesmere . . .	391
Shrivenham . . .	202
Sonning . . .	269
Theale . . .	160†
Wantage . . .	385
Wargrave . . .	172

The only change in the number of members made by the Reform Bill was to reduce the members for Wallingford from two to one, for Abingdon previously returned only one, and to give one additional county member. The county members are nominated at Abingdon, and the poll for the county is taken at Reading, Abingdon, Newbury, Wantage, Wokingham, Maidenhead, Great Faringdon, and East Ilsley. Abingdon was the place where the poll was taken in case of a contest before the Reform Bill. Abingdon, Maidenhead, Newbury, Reading, Wallingford, and Windsor are incorporated municipal boroughs.

POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONS.

The absolute population of Berkshire, at each of the four enumerations made in this century was:—

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Incr. per Cent.
1801	52,821	56,394	109,215	
1811	57,360	60,917	118,277	8.29
1821	65,546	66,431	131,977	11.58
1831	72,553	72,836	145,389	10.08

Showing an increase between the first and last enumerations of 36,174 persons, or 33 per cent. This is considerably below the rate of increase in the whole of England, which amounted, in the

same period, to 57 per cent. The population is 195 per square mile, while the average for the whole of England is 259. The density of the population in Hants, Bucks, Norfolk and Suffolk is nearly the same as in Berks, these counties varying only from 193 to 198 per square mile.

The ages of the population in the county, so far as the same could be ascertained in 1821, were as follow. The experiment proved less successful in this than in some other counties, the ages of 88 only in 100 having been returned: in the adjoining county of Bucks the return comprised more than 98 persons out of 100.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5 years . . .	8,908	8,472	17,380
5 to 10 . . .	8,566	8,014	16,580
10 „ 15 . . .	7,318	6,807	14,125
15 „ 20 . . .	6,056	5,836	11,892
20 „ 30 . . .	8,837	9,800	18,637
30 „ 40 . . .	6,795	7,316	14,111
40 „ 50 . . .	5,740	5,983	11,723
50 „ 60 . . .	4,386	4,352	8,738
60 „ 70 . . .	3,030	3,132	6,162
70 „ 80 . . .	1,719	1,712	3,431
80 „ 90 . . .	468	552	1,020
90 „ 100 . . .	30	41	71
100 years and upwards	1	2	3
	61,854	62,019	123,873

The number of persons between the ages of 20 and 50, for the whole of England, is 3708 out of 10,000; in Berkshire out of the same number the proportion is 3590. A considerable number of the population resort for employment to London and other places out of the county, but chiefly to the metropolis, where the population between the ages of 20 and 50 is 4522 out of 10,000 persons. Berkshire being a more wealthy county than some of those situated within the same distance

* Lyford omitted. † Padworth and Wokefield omitted.

of London, the number of persons who leave it in search of employment is not so great. For example, there are 2432 more male and female servants in Berkshire than in Bucks, although the population of the latter county is rather larger; and the number of males in the latter county in 1821, whose ages were between 20 and 50, was only 3137 out of 10,000.

Berkshire is an agricultural county, and ranks in this respect fourteenth among the counties of England. At the census of 1831 it was found that among 37,084 males, twenty years of age and upwards, residing within the county, no more than 521 were employed in manufactures, or in making manufacturing machinery. Out of this number, nearly 300 were employed in making mats and sacking at Abingdon, and sail-cloth there and elsewhere; about 100 were engaged in silk manufactures at Reading and Newbury, and 25 in copper-mills at Bisham. The proportions in which the inhabitants of the county were divided into the leading classes of employment at the enumerations of 1811, 1821, and 1831, were as follow:—

	1811.	1821.	1831.
Agriculture (families in 100)	53·5	53·3	45·2
Trade, manufactures, &c.	31·3	31·7	31·8
Other classes	16·2	15	23

The following is an abstract of the Population Returns for the county: the population of the larger places

will be noticed in their particular descriptions:—

Houses.

Inhabited	28,032
Families	31,081
Building	234
Uninhabited	975

Occupations.

Families chiefly employed in agriculture	14,047
„ „ trade, manufactures and handicraft	9,884
All other families not comprised in the two preceding classes	7,150

Persons.

Males	72,553
Females	72,836
Total of Persons	145,389
Males twenty years of age	37,084

Agriculture.

Occupiers employing labourers	1711
„ not employing labourers	458
Labourers employed in Agriculture	14,802

Other Occupations.

Employed in manufacture, or in making manufacturing machinery	521
Employed in retail trade, or in handicraft as masters or workmen	10,758
Capitalists, bankers, professional and other educated men	1,447
Labourers employed in labour, not agricultural	3708
Other males twenty years of age (except servants)	2224
Male servants, twenty years of age	1455
„ „ under twenty years of age	810
Female servants	6022

CIVIC ECONOMY.

LOCAL TAXATION AND EXPENDITURE.

The sum raised by assessment for the poor's rate, county rate, and other local purposes in the year ending 25th March, 1833, amounted to 136,400*l.*: it was levied upon the following description of property:—

On land	£101,749	13
„ Dwelling-houses	29,861	4
„ Mills, factories, &c.	3,298	11
„ Manorial profits, navigation, &c.	1,490	12
	£136,400	0

The valuation for the assessment of the county rate is 707,827*l.*: in 1815, the county was assessed under the property-tax as follows:—Real Property at 720,630*l.*, annual value; Profits of Trade &c. 299,992*l.* The amount of real property assessed under each head was:—Land, 502,096*l.*; Houses, 140,211*l.*; Tithes, 67,511*l.*; Manors, 209*l.*; Fines, 5812*l.*; Profit of Iron works, &c., 4506*l.*; Miscellaneous, 285*l.*

The county assessment for the year ending 25th March, 1838, amounted to 73,306*l.*, and the expenditure for the same period amounting to 76,187*l.*, was on account of the following objects:—

Relief and maintenance of the poor, including 1145 <i>l.</i> for medical relief . . .	£59,286
Removal of paupers, Law charges, &c., . . .	1,693
Payments for or towards the County rates . . .	10,966
Fees to Clergymen and Registrars under Registration Act	172
Registrars' offices, books and forms, ditto. . .	140
Payments under Parochial Assessments Act . . .	265
Ditto for all other purposes	3,665
	£76,187

The county expenditure for various purposes, exclusive of the relief of the

poor, was as follows in 1833, the latest time to which any statement has been given:—

Bridges and roads leading to them	£986
Gaols	2090
Expenses of criminal trials at quart. sess.	631
„ „ „ circuits	657
„ coroners	128
„ shire halls.	13
„ lunatic asylums	34
„ printing, bailiff, marshal, &c.	359
„ conveying prisoners to gaol	178
„ clerk of assize	41
„ conveying vagrants	997

In 1792 the expenditure amounted to 1874*l.*; in 1802, to 3033*l.*; in 1812, to 6776*l.*; in 1822, to 8475*l.*; in 1832, to 9560*l.* The sum levied for county rate in 1833 was 11,207*l.* 18*s.* The accounts are examined on the first day of quarter sessions in the grand jury room, adjoining to the court, and from this examination no person is excluded.

PAUPERISM.

Perhaps no county is more famous in the annals of pauperism than Berkshire. At Speenhamland, on the 6th of May, 1795, was framed the original Bread Table, often called by paupers the “Speenhamland Act of Parliament.” By this table “the parish allowance was systematically substituted for the wages of labour; the industrious man was brought down to the same level with him that was content to eat the bread of idleness; improvidence rewarded, and the labouring class was proclaimed free of

those moral restraints which act so beneficially on all other classes of the community.”* The table professed to “show at one view what should be the weekly income of the industrious poor.” Thus, “when the gallon loaf of second flour, weighing 8lbs. 11oz., shall cost 1s., then every poor and industrious man shall have for his own support 3s. weekly, either procured by his own or his family’s labour, or an allowance from the poor’s rates; and for the support of his wife and every other of his family, 1s. 6d.” According to the table, on every penny which the loaf rose above 1s. the sum of 3d. was allowed to the man, and 1d. to every other member of his family. But if the most disastrous plan in connexion with the welfare of the poor which was ever acted upon in any country originated in Berkshire, the parishes of Cookham, Swallowfield, and Leckhamstead in the same county, offered also the first examples of the process of dispauperising those whom the Speenhamland Bread Table had both morally and physically degraded. The principles acted upon at Cookham under the judicious and zealous management of the Rev. Mr. Whately, led to the gradual elevation of the population in that parish, while in surrounding parishes, in which a contrary system was followed, the labourers every year sunk deeper into the slough of pauperism. The plan so successfully adopted at Cookham indicated the methods to be pursued when the legisla-

ture resolved upon affecting the work of regeneration on a large scale. The *first* Poor Law Union formed in England was the Abingdon Union, declared 1st January, 1835.

The sums expended for the relief of the poor in Berkshire at the four decenary years of enumeration within the present century were very much greater in proportion than for the whole of England, as the following table will show:—

	Expended for Relief. £.	Average for each Inhabitant.			
		Berks.		England & Wales.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
1801	81,994	15	0	9	1
1811	160,873	27	2	13	1
1821	104,338	15	9	10	7
1831	115,070	15	10	9	9

In the course of the year 1835 twelve unions were formed in the county, each of the following places being the centre of a Union: Abingdon, Bradfield, Cookham, Easthampstead, Faringdon, Hungerford, Newbury, Reading, Wallingford, Wantage, Windsor, Wokingham; and by the end of the parochial year 1838 (March 25th), a saving of 40,372*l.* or 54 per cent. had been effected in the expenditure, without the claims of the indigent having been neglected, and with very valuable effects upon the labourers. There is not a single parish in the county which is not included in a Poor Law Union. Some of the Berkshire Unions comprise parishes in the adjoining counties. The following table shows the area and population of each Union; the average annual expenditure of the three years preceding its formation, and the sum expended in the year ending 25th March, 1837.

* First Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners.

Name of Union.	No. of Parishes.	Area in sq. Miles.	Population in 1831.	Average Expend. of the years 1832-3-4.	Expenditure of Year ending 25th March, 1837.
Abingdon . . .	38	77	16,654	£ 6,795	£ 4,467
Bradfield . . .	29	106	14,682	12,753	7,898
Cookham . . .	7	48	10,517	3,946	3,139
Easthampstead . .	5	43	6,980	2,700	1,990
Faringdon . . .	31	101	14,236	13,124	5,997
Hungerford . . .	20	150	18,556	16,073	8,440
Newbury . . .	18	72	19,054	15,756	9,246
Reading . . .	3	8	16,042	8,179	5,268
Wallingford . . .	28	68	12,219	13,017	6,805
Wantage . . .	33	128	15,917	17,120	9,190
Windsor . . .	6	35	15,986	8,368	5,119
Wokingham . . .	16	67	11,888	8,153	4,763

If the process of dispauperising proceed as rapidly as it has hitherto done, Berkshire will, in the course of a few years, be assimilated to those parts of England where a "Bread Table" and the evils of the allowance system have been practically unknown. The expenditure for the relief of the poor in Berkshire in the years 1834-5-6-7, and the sums expended per head, in reference to the population of 1831, both in Berkshire, and in England and Wales, were as under:—

Years.	Expended for Relief. £.	Average for each Inhabitant.			
		Berks.		England & Wales.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
1834	100,183	13	9	9	1
1835	86,435	11	11	7	11
1836	65,343	9	0	6	9
1837	56,618	7	9	5	1

CRIME.

The number of persons charged with the commission of criminal offences in Berkshire in the three septennial periods ending with 1820, 1827, and 1834 were 912, 1113 and 1505 respectively, being

an average of 130 annually in the first period of 159 in the second period, and of 215 in the last septennial. In the following years the numbers were as under:—

	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.
Committed .	250	189	205	270	290	324
Convicted ..	87	55	68	82	101	211
Acquitted ..	163	134	137	188	189	113

The proportion of criminal offenders to the population was about 1 in 600, which is lower than the proportion for the whole of England. The proportion convicted was 1 in 3 for the above years, while in the four years ending 1837 the proportion for England and Wales was 2 in 7. The increase in the number of offenders must not be taken absolutely as a proof of the increase of crime, as the greater efficiency of the police and the greater facilities in criminal proceedings may have led to apprehensions and prosecutions which under other circumstances would not have occurred. The degree of instruction which the 290 persons committed in 1838 had received

was ascertained, with the exception of 11 individuals; and it appeared that of the remaining 279, only 17 could read and write well; 160 could read and write imperfectly, that is, scarcely to a sufficient extent to be practically useful, and 102 could not read or write at all. The offences with which the above 290 persons were charged do not testify unfavourably to the character of the population of Berkshire, offences against the person being fewer in proportion than for the whole of England and Wales; but pilfering and acts of petty larceny appear to be the most prevalent cases which come under the cognisance of the law within the county. In 1838 there were 194 persons charged with simple larceny out of 290, the total number committed for offences of every class.

EDUCATION.

According to returns made by order of the House of Commons in 1833, the number of daily schools in Berkshire was 511, at which 16,574 children received instruction. In this enumeration 23 infant schools are included which were attended by 693 children. There were also 225 Sunday schools, attended by 14,113 children. There are no means for ascertaining the number of scholars who attended both Sunday and daily schools, but even admitting that no duplicate return of children was made, and that the number of children receiving instruction was, as appears from the Return, 30,687, there would remain about 20,000 children from the ages of

2 to 15 who were not attending any school. This proportion, however, is about the average of many other counties. Seventy-three boarding schools were included in the 511 daily schools. Lending libraries were attached to 21 of the common day and Sunday schools.

SAVINGS' BANKS.

There are ten savings' banks within the county, at Abingdon, Faringdon, Hungerford, Maidenhead, Newbury, Reading, Twyford, Wantage, Windsor, and Wokingham. The number of depositors and amount of deposits on the 20th November, 1834-5-6-7-8 were respectively as follow:—

Number of depositors:—

1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.
7,937	8,347	8,889	9,133	9,639

Amount of deposits:—

£260,425	266,672	276,971	285,537	301,980
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On the 20th November, 1837, the accounts in the different savings' banks of the county stood as follows:—

	Depositors.	Deposits.
Not exceeding £20	5089	37,192
50	2327	72,393
100	1073	75,226
150	386	47,536
200	186	32,485
Above 200	72	20,705
Total . . .	9133	285,537

The number of depositors of sums of £20 and under in each 1000 of the population of Berkshire in 1835 was 31, the numbers for the same amount of population in all other parts of England being 18: there were 57 depositors of every class in Berkshire to 1000 of the population, the proportion for England being 35.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND TRAFFIC.

ROADS.

The principal roads which pass through Berkshire are those from London to Bath and Oxford. Both these enter the county at Maidenhead, a little beyond which they separate, the Oxford road running nearly due west to Henley, where it leaves the county; and the Bath road running south-west to Reading. There are two other roads from London to Reading, both of which pass through Egham in Surrey, and, separating there, run nearly parallel to each other, until they reunite a few miles before they reach Reading. From this town the Bath road passes through Newbury and Hungerford, just after which it enters Wiltshire. The principal other roads are one from London to Cirencester, which, branching off from the Oxford road near Nettlebed in Oxfordshire, runs through Wallingford and Wantage: another road to Cirencester, which, branching off from the Oxford road at Dorchester (Oxfordshire), runs through Abingdon, and uniting with the first-mentioned road at Faringdon, crosses the Thames at St. John's Bridge, near Lechlade, into Gloucestershire: one from Oxford to Kingsclere and Whitchurch (Hants), and so to Winchester and Southampton, which, entering Berkshire near Wallingford, runs through it in a southern direction into Hampshire, without passing through any market-town except Wallingford: one

from Oxford by Abingdon and East Ilsley to Newbury, from which town two branches run, one to Andover (Hants) and the other to Whitchurch (Hants); two from Oxford to Hungerford, one by Wantage, and one by Abingdon; one from Lambourn to Newbury, and one from Reading to Basingstoke in Hampshire. There is a road from Reading to Wallingford which nearly follows the winding of the Thames. From Wallingford to Abingdon there is a road which in no instance deviates far from the Thames: a short distance from Wallingford it crosses the river into Oxfordshire, and does not re-enter Berkshire until it recrosses the Thames just before it reaches Abingdon. The river may be crossed at many points where ferries are established. These ferries are indicated on the map.

The turnpike roads in Berkshire are good, as are also the parochial roads in the south-eastern part, especially about Reading. The parochial roads in the Vale of White Horse are deep and miry, and in winter almost impassable.

The number of turnpike trusts in the county in 1829 was twenty, having 319 miles of road under their charge, the annual income of which, derived from tolls and parish compositions, amounted to 15,388*l.* and the annual outlay for repairs and management was 15,092*l.* In 1835 several of the trusts having been consolidated, there were fifteen instead

of twenty; the annual income amounted to 19,640*l.*, including 15,819*l.* from tolls alone; and the total expenditure was 18,609*l.*, including 2473*l.* interest on debt, which amounted to 55,865*l.*

RAILWAY.

The Great Western Railway from London to Bath and Bristol, which has its London terminus at Paddington, after passing through or near Acton, Ealing, Hanwell, Southall, Slough and Salthill, enters Berkshire a few hundred yards south of Maidenhead by a viaduct over the Thames. From Maidenhead it proceeds nearly in a direct line through Twyford to Reading; thence in a direction W.N.W., to Basilden, where it crosses the Thames into Oxfordshire; it again enters Berkshire north of Moulsoford, passes between North and South Moreton, past Dudcot on the north, and proceeds through Steventon, afterwards crossing the Berks and Wilts canal about two miles north of Wantage, again crosses the same canal on the verge of the county, and enters Wiltshire between Highworth and Swindon, about 76 miles from London. The length of the Great Western line of railway which passes through Berkshire is about 50 miles. The summit level is at Swindon, which is 253 feet higher than the depôt at Paddington, and 275 feet higher than the terminus at Bristol. From London the road rises gradually to Maidenhead, Reading, and Dudcot, by easy ascents, nowhere exceeding four feet per mile, or one in 1320. The expense of the Act of In-

corporation, which was obtained in August, 1835, amounted to the enormous sum of 88,710*l.* For the completion of the necessary works the company was authorised to raise two and a half millions in 100*l.* shares, and further to borrow on mortgage any sum not exceeding one-third of this amount; but the original estimate has been already exceeded by a sum exceeding 2,000,000*l.* The works were commenced in February, 1836. On the 4th of June, 1838, the railway was opened from London to Maidenhead; on the 1st of July, 1839, a further portion of the line was opened to Twyford; in March, 1840, the line was opened to Reading, 35½ miles from London; in June as far as Steventon; and on the 20th of July as far as the Faringdon Road. The number of passengers conveyed is considered highly satisfactory by the company. There are now 17 trains daily each way, except Sunday. The earliest train for passengers from London being 8 A.M., and the latest 5 minutes before 9 P.M. A higher velocity may be maintained on this railroad with safety than perhaps on any other, owing to the width between the rails, which is 7 feet instead of 4 feet 8 inches as on some other lines. The body of the carriage may consequently be safely placed between the wheels instead of above them, and wheels of much larger diameter can be used. At present (July 1840) no period has been fixed upon for opening the whole line. The distances on the line are as follow, beginning at Paddington:—

Stations.	Miles.	Distance from London.
To Ealing	6	6
„ Hanwell	1	7
„ Southall	2	9
„ West Drayton . .	4	13
„ Slough	5	18
„ Maidenhead . . .	4	22
„ Twyford	9	31
„ Reading	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Pangbourn	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	41
„ Goring	3	44
„ Moulsoford	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ Steventon	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	56
„ Faringdon Road . .	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$

RIVERS.

The navigation of the Thames, though much improved within the last 45 years, is still tedious and uncertain, especially for large boats. Iron steam-boats have recently been introduced. The tide channel may be said to extend as far as Teddington (Tidengtoun) Lock, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from London by the river, or 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles direct distance; and above this part of the river there is not unfrequently a scarcity of water. A series of locks obviates this defect in some measure, and the navigation is also facilitated by short cuttings, for the purpose of avoiding shallows or extensive bends. The navigation commences soon after the river touches the border of Berkshire, viz., at St. John's Bridge, near Lechlade, where it is 258 feet above low-water mark at London; from Lechlade to Reading it has a fall of 123 feet, and from Reading to London the fall is 135 feet. Before the opening of the Thames and Severn canal in 1789 the Thames was navigated between Cricklade and Lechlade, a distance

of 9 or 10 miles; but this part of the river is now disused. In Priestley's work on canals, the distances on the Thames by the course of the river are given as follow, beginning at Lechlade:—

	Miles.
To Oxford	28
„ Abingdon	8
„ Wallingford	14
„ Reading	18
„ Henley	9
„ Marlow	9
„ Maidenhead	8
„ Windsor	7

According to Priestley, the navigation between Lechlade and London is 146 miles. The total distance from West Crudwell,* one of the principal sources of the Thames, 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ N. by E. of Malmesbury to Sheerness, is 204 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles: the tide channel from the Nore to Teddington Lock is about 60 miles.†

The Kennet is made navigable from Newbury to the Thames, a distance by the stream of about twenty miles. In the course of this navigation there are 21 locks; the highest point is 264 feet above the level of the sea at low water; the fall from thence to Reading is about 134 feet.

CANALS.

Besides the navigation of the Thames and the Kennet, Berkshire has two canals, viz., the Wilts and Berks Canal, and the Kennet and Avon Canal. The former, projected in 1801, commences in the river Thames just below Abing-

* From Crudwell to Cricklade is 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles; and from Cricklade to Lechlade 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

† 'Geography of Great Britain,' Library of Useful Knowledge, pp. 48, 49.

don, and is carried through the Vale of White Horse past Wantage into Wiltshire: crossing this county near Swindon, Wootton Bassett, Calne, Chippenham, and Melksham, it joins the Kennet and Avon Canal not far from the last-mentioned town: it is 52 miles in length, $27\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth at the surface, 14 feet at the bottom, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. The height of the Thames at the commencement of this canal is 180 feet above the sea at low water, and the canal rises in its course through this county till it enters Wiltshire, where it attains its summit level of 345 feet: the number of locks is about 40. It supplies with fuel the district through which it passes, and enables the agriculturalist to send his corn and other produce to market.

The Kennet and Avon Canal commences at Newbury, forming a continuation of the River Kennet navigation, and passes up the Vale of Kennet, by Hungerford and Great Bedwin, to Crofton in Wilts, near which its summit level begins. From this level it continues its course by Devizes, Semington (a village at which it is joined by the Wilts and Berks Canal), Trowbridge, and Bradford to Bath. The elevation of the highest point of the Kennet navigation is 264 feet, and the summit level of the Kennet and Avon Canal, at Crofton Tunnel, is 210 feet more: at Reading the elevation is only about 135 feet above low-water mark at London Bridge. There are above 40 locks in this canal. A little way above Hungerford the canal is carried over the

Kennet by an aqueduct of three arches. This canal is 45 feet in breadth at its surface, and from five to six feet deep. It was projected in 1796, and finished in 1810.

POST TOWNS.

The following are the towns in Berkshire for which bags are made up at the General Post-Office in London, with the number of letters and newspapers posted in one week, previous to the commencement of the penny postage.

	Letters.	Newspapers.
Abingdon . . .	761	
Faringdon . . .	395	54
Hungerford . . .	452	68
Maidenhead . . .	1060	134
Newbury . . .	1377	248
Reading . . .	2820	1213
Wantage . . .	320	45
Windsor . . .	2806	714
Wokingham . . .	241	51

MARKETS AND FAIRS.

The markets of Newbury and Reading not only supply the less fertile districts and the dairy counties with corn, but likewise give employment to numerous mills, whence the grain in the shape of flour is sent in considerable quantities to the London market.

There are numerous fairs in the county, some of which are very ancient, and others of later institution. The fairs at Reading are noted, especially that for horses on the 25th of July, and for cheese on the 21st of September. Ilsley sheep fairs are some of the largest after the great fairs on the Wiltshire Downs: one is held on the 26th March; but the largest, called Lamb Fair, is on

the 26th of August. On the market days, which are on Wednesdays, a sheep fair is held every fortnight, from Easter till shearing time, where large quantities of sheep are penned. There are fairs also at Abingdon, Newbury, and all the principal towns and villages, as the following list will show:—

Abingdon, first Monday in Lent, May 6, June 20, August 5, September 19, Monday before old Michaelmas, December 11; Arborfield, October 5; Aldermaston, May 6, July 7, October 11; Bracknell, April 25, August 22, October 1; East Ilsley, March 26, Wednesday in Easter week, and every other Wednesday till Whit Wednesday, August 26, first Wednesday after September 29, Wednesday after October

17, November 12; Farringdon, February 15, Whit Tuesday, October 29; Hungerford, last Wednesday in April, August 10; Lambourn, May 12, October 2, December 4; Mortimer, April 27, Nov. 6; Maidenhead, Whit Wednesday, September 29, November 30; Newbury, Holy Thursday, July 5, September 4, October 14, November 8; Oakingham, April 23, June 11, October 10, November 2; Reading, February 2, May 1, July 25, September 21; Thatcham, second Tuesday after Easter Week, first Tuesday after September 29; Wallingford, June 24, September 29, December 17; Wantage, first Saturday in March and May, July 18, October 10 and 17; Windsor, Easter Tuesday, July 5, October 24.

CHAPTER II.

WINDSOR.

THE traveller from London to Windsor will scarcely adopt any other mode of conveyance than the expeditious one of the railway, unless he determines to journey in his own carriage by the turnpike road, or prefers a pedestrian excursion. In either case the flat monotonous highway and the dingy towns of Brentford, Hounslow and Colnbrook, between Hyde Park Corner and Slough, will afford him but little gratification. Instead of this laborious mode of enjoying a day's excursion, we will at once assume that the railway is preferred. There are omnibuses start from the city-office of the Railway Company, situated near the Bank, one hour before the departure of each train; and also from several of the principal coach-offices. The fare to the Paddington station is only sixpence; and by these conveyances there is the certainty of reaching it in time, although it is always advisable to apply for tickets immediately on entering the office, as there is frequently an influx of passengers at the last moment, and the clerks find it difficult to perform their duties so as to secure the punctuality which is maintained on this as on other

railways. On this railway the carriages are divided into the first and the second class. When the traveller has obtained his ticket, he is conducted from the office to the spot from whence the carriages start, and the ringing of a bell announces that the doors are closed, and those who are not in time must be content to remain until the despatch of the next train: a preliminary or warning bell has rung five minutes before. The officers of the Railway Company pay great attention to passengers, directing them to the carriages which are appropriated to individuals going to particular stations. The doors of each carriage are now locked, and the engine, which has been attached to the train in the mean time, is heard breathing and panting like a thing of life. A loud shrill whistle made by the engine is the signal of departure. After a few hundred yards the speed increases, producing, in most cases, a feeling of pleasure and excitement by the magnificent triumph of science which conveys the traveller through scenes of rural solitude with a rapidity that renders the air of the stillest and most sultry day a healthful and plea-

sant breeze. Some of the trains run to Slough without stopping; others deposit and receive passengers at every station. The Ealing, Hanwell, Southall, and West Drayton stations occur before that of Slough. The trains, which stop at these smaller stations are termed mixed trains. Every train without exception, both up and down the line, stops at the Slough station, which is reached in about forty minutes after leaving Paddington. A handsome range of buildings is now erecting at this point, which is the nearest to Windsor. At Slough there are omnibuses in waiting which convey the passengers by the different trains to Eton and Windsor: the fare is sixpence.

From Slough to Eton College is little more than a mile. **Slough** is distinguished by the circumstance of having been the residence of the great astronomer, Sir William Herschell, and here he made some of his most remarkable observations on the heavens. Before entering the College we pass the beautiful playing-fields of the Etonians. The buildings of this institution,—the

———“antique towers,
That crown the watery glade,”

show best from a distance, where they are set off by the natural beauties of their situation. The back of the College, looking from the Thames, forms a landscape of great beauty, which has often been painted by our most celebrated artists



[Eton College from the Thames.]

—The entire College is a conspicuous and ornamental object in the splendid view from the terrace of Windsor Castle. It consists of two quadrangles, built partly of freestone, but chiefly of brick, in a style somewhat resembling that of the north front of St. James's Palace. In the one quadrangle are the school and the chapel, with the lodgings for the scholars; the other contains the library, the provost's house, and the apartments of the fellows. The chapel, which is built of stone, is the part in which the architecture is most ambitious; it is externally a handsome structure, though very plain in the interior. It is one hundred and seventy-five feet in length, including an ante-chapel which is sixty-two feet long. In the centre of the first-mentioned quadrangle stands a bronze statue of Henry VI. which was erected in the early part of the last century by Dr. Godolphin, the provost of the college. There is another statue of the same king in the chapel, the work of the late John Bacon.

ETON COLLEGE was founded by Henry VI. The foundation charter is dated at Windsor, on the twelfth of September, in the nineteenth year of his reign, that is, in the year 1440. The original establishment was a provost, ten priests, four clerks, six choristers, twenty-five poor grammar scholars, and the like number of poor men. It now consists of a provost, six other fellows, two schoolmasters, two conducts, seven clerks, seventy king's scholars, ten choristers, and a number of inferior officers and servants. Besides the scho-

lars on the foundation, the school is always attended by a much larger number of others, called oppidans. The total number of scholars is now about six hundred.

From the seventy king's scholars a certain number are annually selected and put on a roll for admission to King's College, Cambridge. The election is made, after examination of the upper class, by the provost and two fellows of King's College, assisted by the provost, vice-provost, and head master of Eton. The successful candidates, however, are not immediately transferred to Cambridge, but remain at school until vacancies occur on the foundation of King's College. The supply is prevented from outrunning the demand by the regulation that at the age of nineteen an Etonian is superannuated, as it is called, or is not allowed to remain longer at school. On their removal to Cambridge the Eton scholars are received on the foundation of the college and maintained from its funds; and after three years they succeed to fellowships.

Mr. Britton, in the second volume of his 'Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain,' has printed, from manuscripts in the British Museum, some accounts of the expenditure on the building of Eton College, which curiously illustrate wages and prices in former times. The work appears to have been commenced in the beginning of July, 1441. The first week there were employed seventeen carpenters, seven stone-masons, fifteen sawyers, and thirty-one common

abourers. In the second week two more masons and twenty-five more labourers were added. By December we find thirty-five free masons and two row masons employed. The wages of masons and carpenters were sixpence a-

day, and those of labourers twopence. Many days were lost, however, both to the men and to the progress of the work, as being holydays of the church. The first year the entire expenditure was usually from 6*l.* to 9*l.* per week.



[Quadrangle of Eton College.]

The second year there was paid for labour alone 712*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, and for materials 1447*l.* 4*s.* That year 457 tons of stone were imported from Caen, in Normandy, which appear to have been paid for at the rate of 5*s.* 8*d.* per ton at the quarry, 4*s.* more for carriage to London, and 1*s.* 4*d.* more for carriage to Eton: the total cost, therefore, was 11*s.* per ton. Most of our old buildings, we may remark, from the Conquest down to the end of the fifteenth century, were constructed of stone from Caen. The portion of Eton College which is of brick was not begun till 1443. That year 100,000 bricks were used, which cost 10*d.* the thousand. In five years there were consumed 1,637,750 bricks. The brick-kiln was near Slough, in a field now the property of the College, but which was then rented at twenty shillings per annum. The building suffered considerable interruptions before it was completed; and the great tower gateway, indeed, called Lupton's Tower, which was the last part erected, was not finished till the year 1523, in the reign of Henry VIII.

The town of Eton principally consists of one long street, offering nothing remarkable to the curiosity of the stranger. Windsor and Eton, though situated on opposite sides of the Thames, and in different counties (Eton being in Buckinghamshire), form in appearance only one town. The bridge over the river is the only interruption to the line of houses. This bridge, which is of iron, was built in 1823-4. It is a neat structure, of which the engineer was

Mr. Hollis, from whose designs the parish church was also built.

The town of WINDSOR has not much to recommend it to the attention of the visitors, the houses having neither the historical interest which belongs to ancient buildings, nor the elegance of modern erections. Windsor is a clean, neat country town, with good shops. Independent of the Castle, and of the beautiful scenery by which it is surrounded, what is worthy of note in it may be briefly described.

Windsor is a parliamentary and municipal borough, returning two members, and in 1831 had a population of 5650. The municipal and parliamentary boundaries are identical, comprising the whole of the parish of New Windsor (with the exception of the hamlet of Dedworth) and a portion of the parish of Clewer, in which the town of Windsor has extended. Since the passing of the Reform Act an extra-parochial division, called the Lower Ward of the Castle,—which contains the residences of the provost and fellows of St. George's Chapel, the military knights, &c.,—has been included within the borough. Old Windsor is a parish quite distinct from New Windsor. The Saxon kings had a palace at Old Windsor, and Edward the Confessor occasionally kept his court there; but on Windsor Castle becoming the favourite residence of the kings of England, the new town rose into importance, and from having been a chapelry in the parish of Clewer and a part of Clewer manor, it was constituted a separate

parish. The Saxon name of Old Windsor was Windles-ofra or Windleshora, so called, according to the statements of our old topographical writers, from the winding course of the river Thames.

Edward I. made New Windsor a free borough, and Edward IV. granted the burgesses a charter of incorporation. Edward I. was so desirous of benefiting the place that he made it the assize town for the county, though its situation was extremely inconvenient. The county gaol was removed from Wallingford to Windsor; but in consequence of a petition in 1349, it was transferred to Reading, though the king at first refused to make the alteration, alleging in the words of the record, "*Le roi ne veut pas avoir sa gaole en altre chatel qu'en la seon.*" At this period the sovereign exercised his direct influence in judicial proceedings. With the exception of nearly a century, during which the indulgence of the crown probably allowed the electors to omit making returns, the privilege of returning two members to parliament has been exercised since the reign of Edward I. The right of voting which had been exclusively enjoyed by the corporation, was, in 1690, extended to the inhabitants paying scot and lot. In 1835, when the Commissioners of Corporation Inquiry visited the borough, the income of the corporation amounted to about 650*l.* per annum. The town is now divided into two wards, returning six aldermen and eighteen counsellors. The borough has its own quarter-ses-

sions of the peace, and a court for the recovery of small debts.

Windsor is pleasantly situated on rising ground, and consists of six principal streets, well paved and lighted, besides smaller streets, some of which have rather a mean appearance. The old church was pulled down in 1818, and the present edifice, in the later pointed style, was opened in 1822. The Independents and Wesleyan Methodists have places of worship. The Guildhall or Town-house was built in 1686, and contains portraits of the sovereigns of England from King Charles I., besides a few other portraits. There are statues of Queen Anne and her consort Prince George of Denmark in niches, one at each end of the building. The other buildings of a public character are the Free School, erected in 1706, a gaol, a theatre, and barracks for cavalry and infantry. There are endowments appropriated to the purposes of education, and several almshouses and modern charitable and literary institutions, and a weekly newspaper is printed in the town.

Windsor is not situated upon any great thoroughfare; it has no manufactures; and no trade beyond that which the demand of an opulent neighbourhood creates. There is a market held every Saturday, and annual fairs at Easter, and in July and October.

THE CASTLE.

On a hill which is somewhat precipitous to the north, but is of gentle ascent in other directions, stands the Castle of

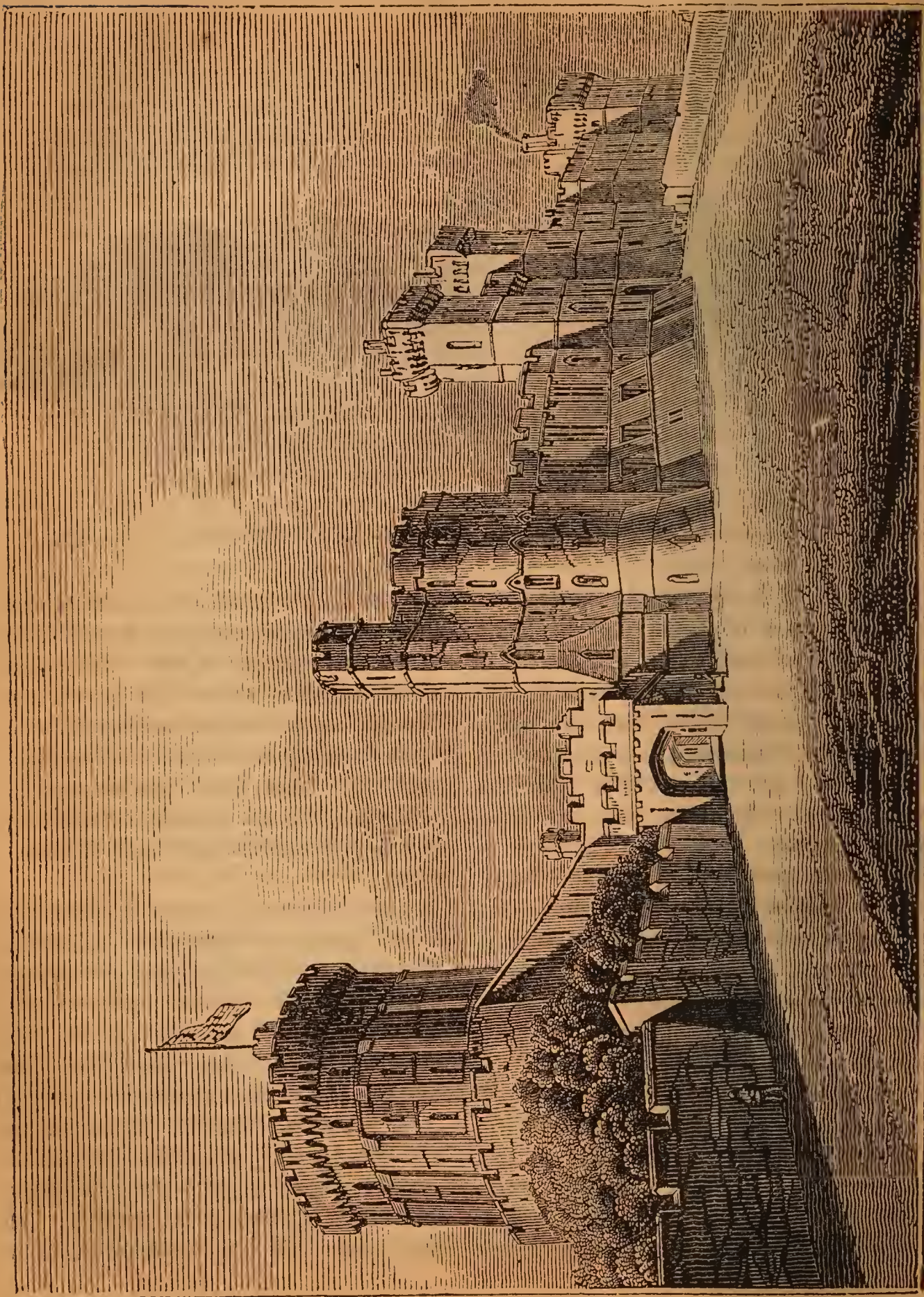


[North-west View of Windsor Castle, from the Thames]

Windsor. "It enjoyeth," says our old English topographer Camden, "a most delightful prospect round about; for right in the front it overlooketh a vale, lying out far and wide, garnished with corn-fields, flourishing with meadows, decked with groves on either side, and watered with the most mild and calm river Thames: behind it arise hills everywhere, neither rough nor over-high, attired as it were with woods, and even dedicated as it were by nature to hunting and 'game.'" The magnificent castle which crowns this eminence is associated with some of the most interesting events and persons in the history of our country. It has witnessed all the pomp of chivalry, and its courts have rung with the feasts and tournaments of the Edwards and Henrys. Kings were born here,—and here they are buried; and after every change of fashion and

opinions, it is still the proudest residence of the sovereign of England, as it was seven centuries ago. The parliament, within these few years, has thought fit to bestow very large sums upon the complete repair of this castle; and we cannot think the amount ill bestowed, for the ancient recollections of a people are amongst its best possessions.

There is scarcely a point within a few miles distance where the Castle of Windsor is not seen to great advantage. To the traveller upon the Bath road and on the railway it presents its bold northern front, which comprises the longest continuous range of its buildings. On the road to Windsor, by Datchet, the eastern front, with its four grand towers, appears of itself to exceed most other edifices in magnitude. To the great Park the southern front is



[The Castle—Round Tower, and South Front.]

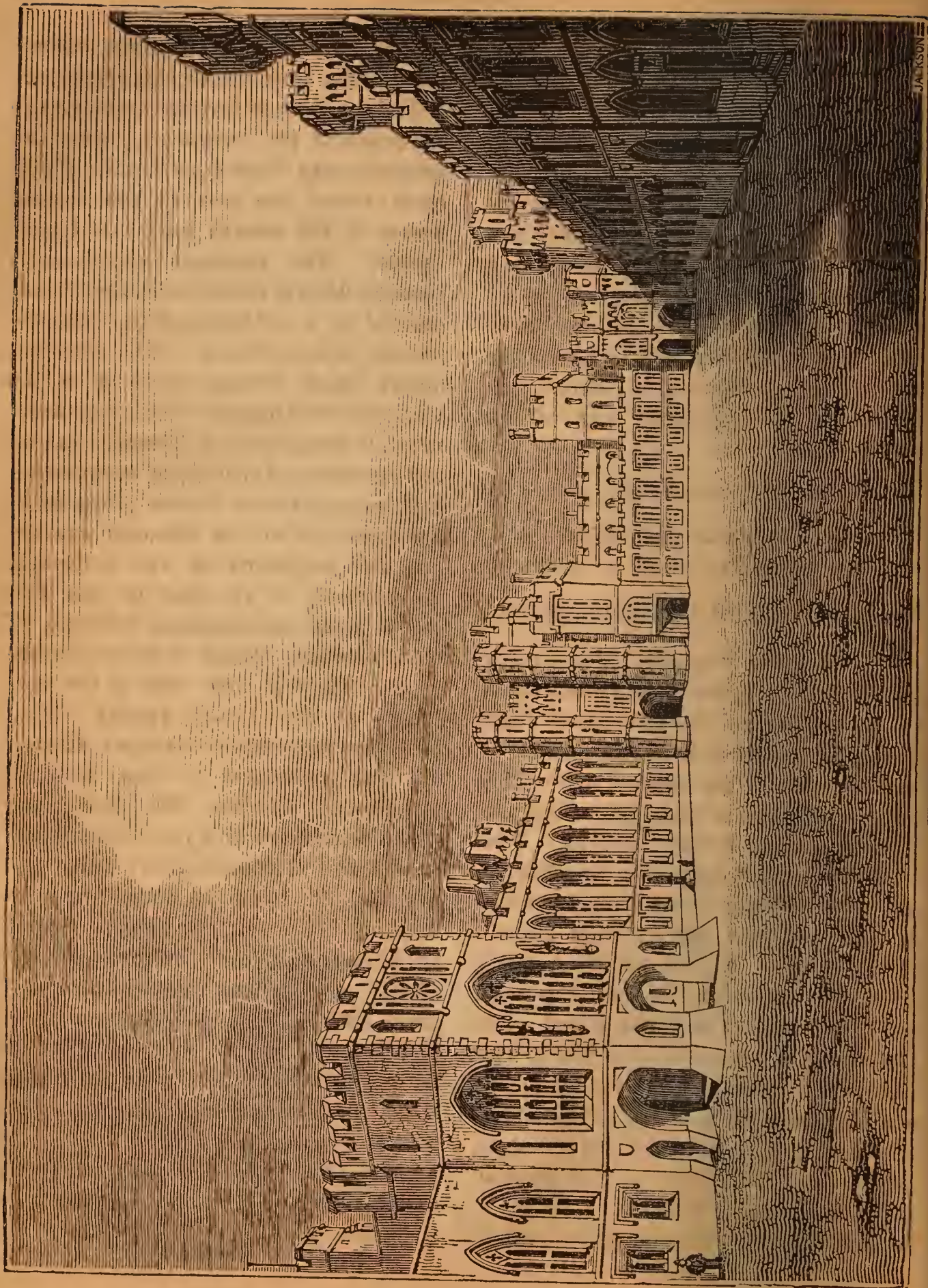
displayed ; and when this part is viewed from the extremity of the fine avenue called the Long Walk, nothing can appear more stately. In every situation the Round Tower rises above the other buildings, and arrests the eye by its surpassing dimensions. Burke has well characterised it as "the proud keep of Windsor." Sir John Denham, in his poem of Cooper's Hill (an eminence overlooking Runnemede), describes the majestic appearance of Windsor in the quaint and exaggerated tone of the poetry of his day:—

"Such seems thy gentle height, made only
proud
To be the basis of that pompous load,
Than which a nobler weight no mountain
bears,
But Atlas only which supports the spheres."

The visitor to Windsor, upon turning up the street (Castle Street) which leads to the Castle, will have the south front presented to him as it is represented in the wood-cut. The improvements that have been made in this part within the last few years are most striking. The road now leads boldly up to the Castle ; and the observer looks without interruption upon the rich woods of the adjacent parks. A very short time ago a number of contemptible buildings were scattered about the Castle ; and even the superb avenue, the Long Walk, was deprived of its natural object—(the object doubtless for which it was planted)—that of forming a road to the principal entrance to the Castle, by the avenue and the entrance being crossed by a large plastered house and offices called

the Queen's Lodge. All these excrescences have been judiciously removed.

The southern entrances to the Castle are reserved for private use, with the exception of a little postern gate, which leads round the base of the Round Tower to the west of the Great Quadrangle. The common approach is through what is called the Lower Ward, entered by a noble gateway, with two towers, built by Henry VIII. The first object which arrests attention is the Chapel of St. George—a building unrivalled in England or in Europe, as a perfect specimen of that richly ornamented Gothic architecture which prevailed in the latter end of the fifteenth century and the beginning of the sixteenth. Immediately to the east of this fine chapel is an ecclesiastical building of later erection, called Wolsey's Tomb-house ; which is now used as the dormitory of the Royal Family. The buildings opposite St. George's Chapel are the residences of the Military Knights of Windsor. The bold tower which terminates this row of buildings, as well as the opposite tower called the Winchester, (from its being the residence of William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, the architect of the Castle,) are the best preserved, without much change, of the more ancient parts of the whole fabric. On the right as he proceeds, the visitor looks down over a low battlemented wall, upon what was once the moat of the Round Tower. It appears to have been in part a garden as long since as the time of James I. of Scotland, who was detained here for



[The Castle.—Great Quadrangle.]

some time, and has celebrated this solace of his imprisonment in one of his poems. The tower itself rises in stern grandeur out of this depth. The mound upon which it is built is no doubt artificial. This immense tower has been considerably elevated within a few years, in common with many other parts of the Castle.

Proceeding through a gateway of two towers, whose low portal indicates its antiquity and its employment for defence, the visitor finds himself within the magnificent quadrangle of the palace. On the north are the state apartments, in which is included the celebrated Hall of St. George:—on the east and south the private apartments of the Queen and her Court. The state apartments are exhibited to strangers, as we shall more particularly mention. Nothing can be more imposing than the general effect of this quadrangle. Every part is now of a uniform character. We look in vain for the narrow grated windows and pierced battlements of the times of feudal strife, when convenience was sacrificed to security. These characteristics of a martial age were swept away by Charles II., who substituted the architectural style of the age of Louis XIV., than which nothing could have been in worse taste. In the recent alterations of the Castle, the architect has most judiciously preserved the best characteristics of old English domestic architecture. The wood-cut may give some notion of the richness and grandeur of this quadrangle.

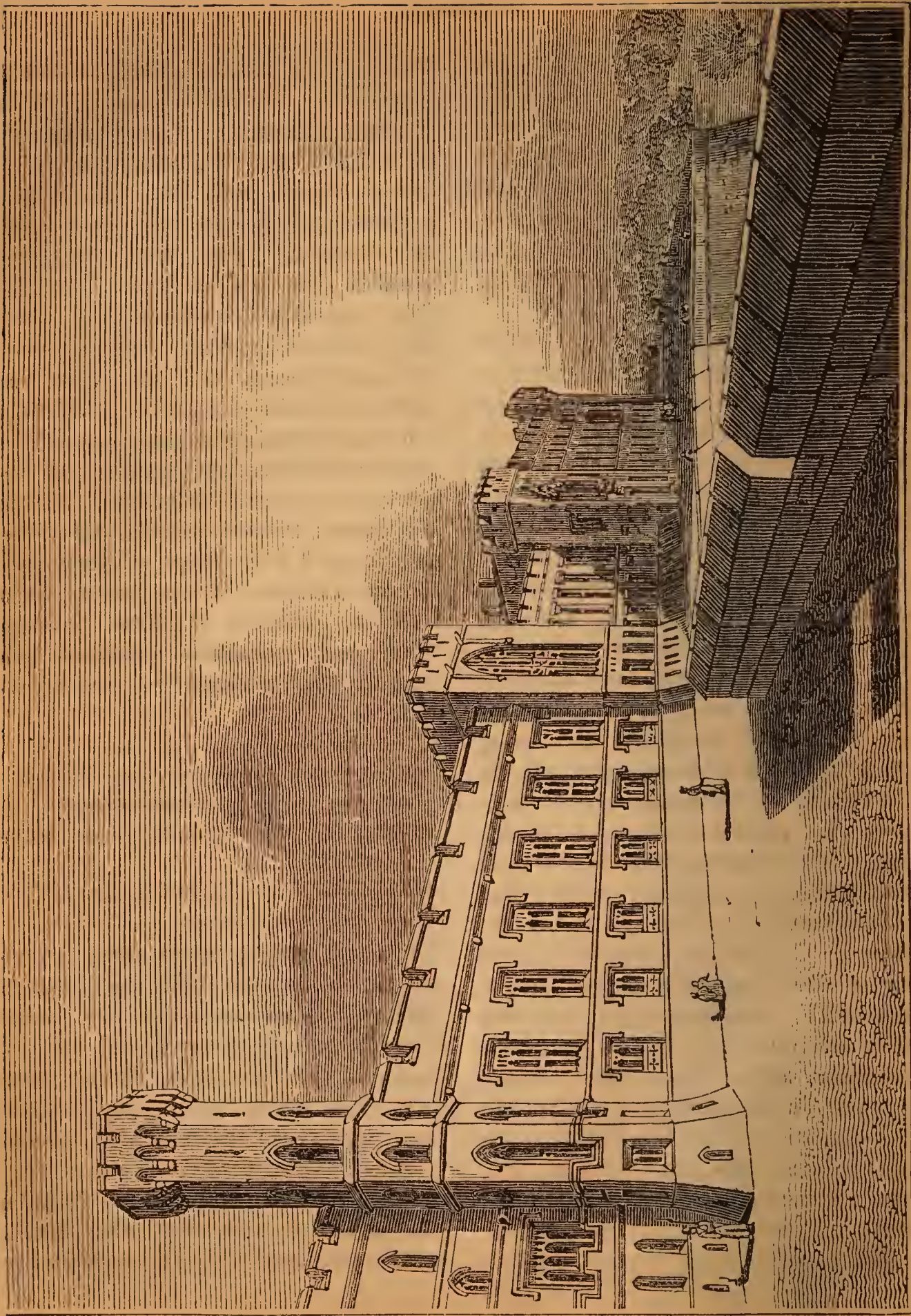
Returning a short distance, the en-

trance to the terrace presents itself to the visitor. After descending a flight of steps, the scene is totally changed. A prospect, unrivalled in extent and beauty, bursts upon the sight. Few persons can look upon this scene without emotion. The eye delightedly wanders over the various features of this remarkable landscape. It traces the Thames gliding tranquilly and brilliantly along, through green and shadowy banks—sometimes presenting a broad surface, and sometimes escaping from observation in its sudden and capricious windings;—it ranges as far as the distant hills—it counts the numerous turrets and spires of the neighbouring villages—or it reposes upon the antique grandeur of Eton College. Gray has beautifully described this magnificent prospect in well-known lines:—

———“ From the stately brow
Of Windsor’s heights th’ expanse below
Of grove, of lawn, of mead survey,
Whose turf, whose shade, whose flowers
among
Wanders the hoary Thames along
His silver winding way.”

The north side of the terrace is constantly open to the public; and this is by far the finest part. To the eastern side admittance is only granted on Saturdays and Sundays. At the north-east angle of the terrace the northern front of the Castle is exhibited as shown in the wood-cut in the next page.

The earliest history of Windsor Castle, like that of many other ancient buildings, is involved in some obscurity.



[The Castle,—North Front and Terrace]

It is doubtful whether in the time of William the Conqueror, and of his son Rufus, it was used as a residence ; but it was certainly then a military post. At Old Windsor, a village about a mile and a half from the present castle, there was a Saxon palace, which was occasionally inhabited by the kings of England. Henry I. held his court there in 1105 and 1107 ; but having enlarged the adjacent castle with “ many fair buildings,” he, according to the Saxon Chronicle, kept the festival of Whitsuntide there in 1110. In the time of Stephen, the Castle, according to Holingshed’s Chronicle, was esteemed the second fortress in the kingdom. Henry II. and his son held two parliaments there. Upon the news of his brother Richard’s imprisonment in the Holy Land, John took possession of the Castle ; and after his accession to the throne remained there, as a place of security, during his contests with the barons. Holingshed says, that the barons, having refused to obey the summons of the King to attend him in his own castle, he gave them the meeting at Runnemedes, which ended in the signature of Magna Charta. The fortress sustained several changes of masters during the wars between the Crown and the Nobility, which broke out again in the reign of John, and of Henry III. Windsor Castle was the favourite place of residence of Edward I. and II. ; and here Edward III. was born. During the long reign of this monarch, the Castle, according to its present magnificent plan, was com-

menced, and in great part completed. The history of the building furnishes, in many respects, a curious picture of the manners of the feudal ages.

At a period when no man’s possessions were thoroughly assured to him by equal laws,—when the internal peace of kingdoms was distracted by the pretensions of rival claimants to sovereignty,—and when foreign wars were undertaken, not for the assertion of national honour or the preservation of national safety, but at the arbitrary will of each warlike holder of a throne, personal valour was considered the highest merit ; and the great were esteemed, not for their intellectual acquirements and their moral virtues, but for their gallantry in the tournament and their ferocity in the battle-field. Amongst the legends of the old chroniclers and romance-writers (and there was originally small difference in the two characters), the most favourite was the story of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. Froissart, the most amusing of chroniclers, says, that Windsor was the seat of the solemnities of the Round Table, in the sixth century : and later historians affirm that Edward III. in a solemn joust held at Windsor in the eighteenth year of his reign, revived the institution. Walsingham, the historian, states, that upon this occasion Edward built a round chamber, two hundred feet in diameter, for the deliberations and festivals of the companions in arms that he gathered about him. This strange house was itself called the Round

Table. It is probable that it was a temporary structure; for, within a short time after, various commissions for appointing surveyors and impressing workmen were issued; and in 1356, William of Wykeham, then one of the king's chaplains, was appointed architect of the various buildings which Edward's taste for magnificent display had projected. In one year three hundred and sixty workmen were impressed to be employed at the king's wages. Some of them having secretly left Windsor to engage in other employments for greater wages, writs were issued for their committal to prison, and to prohibit all persons from engaging them under severe penalties. Such were the modes in which the freedom of industry was violated, before the principles of commercial intercourse were fairly established.

Impressments of various artificers appear to have gone on for the same object, till the year 1373; after which there are no records of more commissions being issued. It is probable, therefore, that this immense work was completed, as far as Edward III. had contemplated, in about seventeen years from its commencement. Before it had been begun, Edward had founded the Order of the Garter; and during its progress, and after its completion, the festivals of this institution were celebrated at Windsor with every pomp of regal state. Knights-strangers were several times invited from all parts of the world, with letters of safe-conduct to pass and repass the realm; and one of these festivals is par-

ticularly described by the chroniclers as exceeding all others in splendour, which was given in honour of John, King of France, who was then a prisoner at Windsor. John, who appears to have been a shrewd observer, is recorded to have said, that he never knew such royal shows and feastings, without some after-reckoning for gold and silver.

With the exception of occasional high pageantries on the festival of St. George, Windsor Castle does not appear to have been the scene of many public solemnities after the reign of its chivalrous founder. Richard II., however, heard here the appeal of high treason brought by the Duke of Lancaster against the Duke of Norfolk. But it was often the favourite country residence of our kings; several of whom, particularly Henry VII., continued to make various additions and improvements. There is a curious poem by the Earl of Surrey, who was confined in the Castle for violating the canons of the church, by eating flesh in Lent, which presents the best picture we have of the kind of life which the accomplished gallants of the English court led in our country palaces, at a period when refinement had not taken away the relish for simple pleasures. He describes

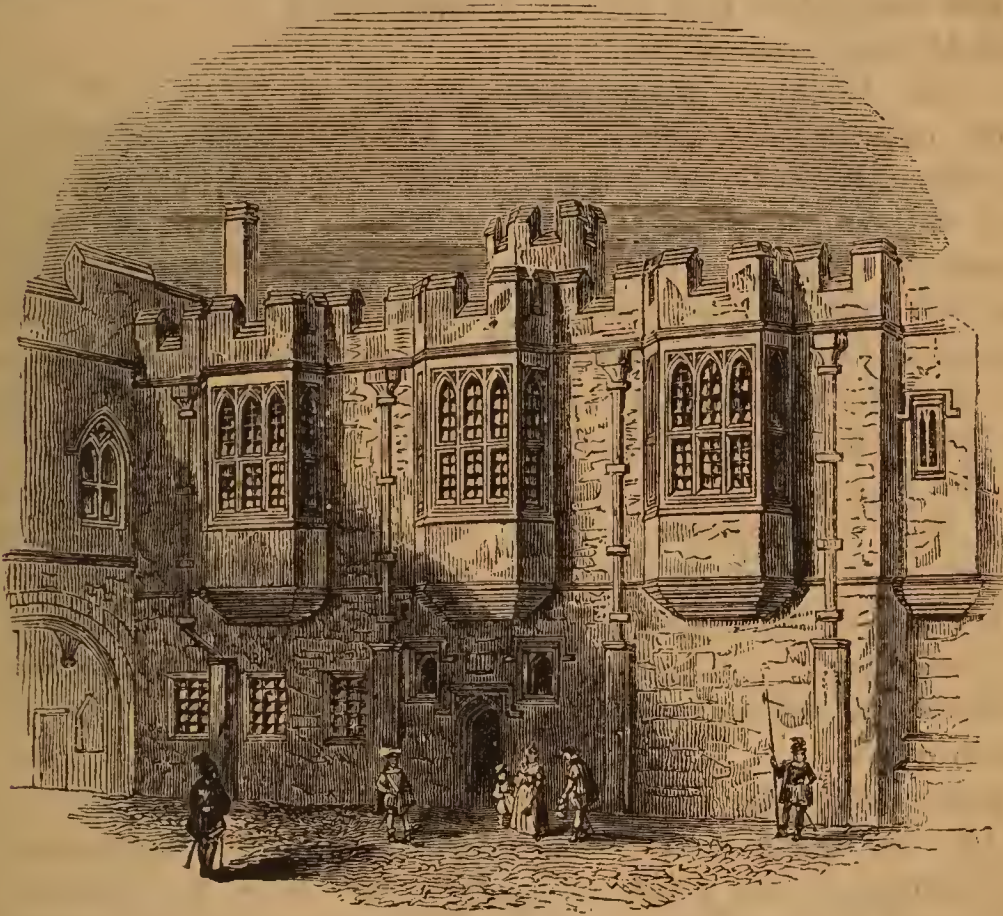
"The large green courts where we were wont
to hove *

With eyes cast up into the maiden's tower;" and he goes on to contrast his painful imprisonment with his former happiness amongst "the stately seats," "the ladies

* Loiter.

bright," "the dances short," "the palm-play,"* "the gravel-ground,"† "the secret groves," and "the wild forest,"
 "With cry of hounds, and merry blasts between,
 Where we did chase the fearful hart of force."
 The age of Elizabeth brought with it

a love of letters; and here "the maiden queen" occasionally retired from the cares of state, to dictate verses to her private secretary, or receive the flatteries of the accomplished Leicester. There is in the State Paper Office an original manuscript translation of Horace's *Art of Poetry*, composed by Elizabeth under



[Part of Windsor Castle,—built in the time of Elizabeth.]

such circumstances. This queen built the north terrace, and a gallery still called after her name, and retaining the peculiar style of the architecture of her day. We give a view of it as it appeared

* Fives.

† For tournaments.

before the recent improvements, in which, however, the characteristic features of the architecture have been little changed.

Windsor Castle was garrisoned by the parliament during the great civil

war of Charles I.; and it was the last prison of that unfortunate monarch. Upon the restoration, Charles II. bestowed upon the Castle the doubtful honour of repairing it according to his foreign taste. We have no accurate records of what he destroyed; but the probability is, that in remodelling the interior he swept away some of the most valuable memorials that existed of the style of living amongst his predecessors. St. George's Hall was covered with paintings by Verrio, as were the ceilings of all the other state apartments; and truly nothing can be more disgusting than the nauseous flattery and bad taste of these productions. Most of the miserable improvements, as they were called, of this king, have been swept away from the exterior of the Castle; and, in many particulars, from the interior. St. George's Hall is once more a Gothic room, such as the "invincible knights of old" might have feasted in. Charles II., however, carried the terrace round the east and south fronts.

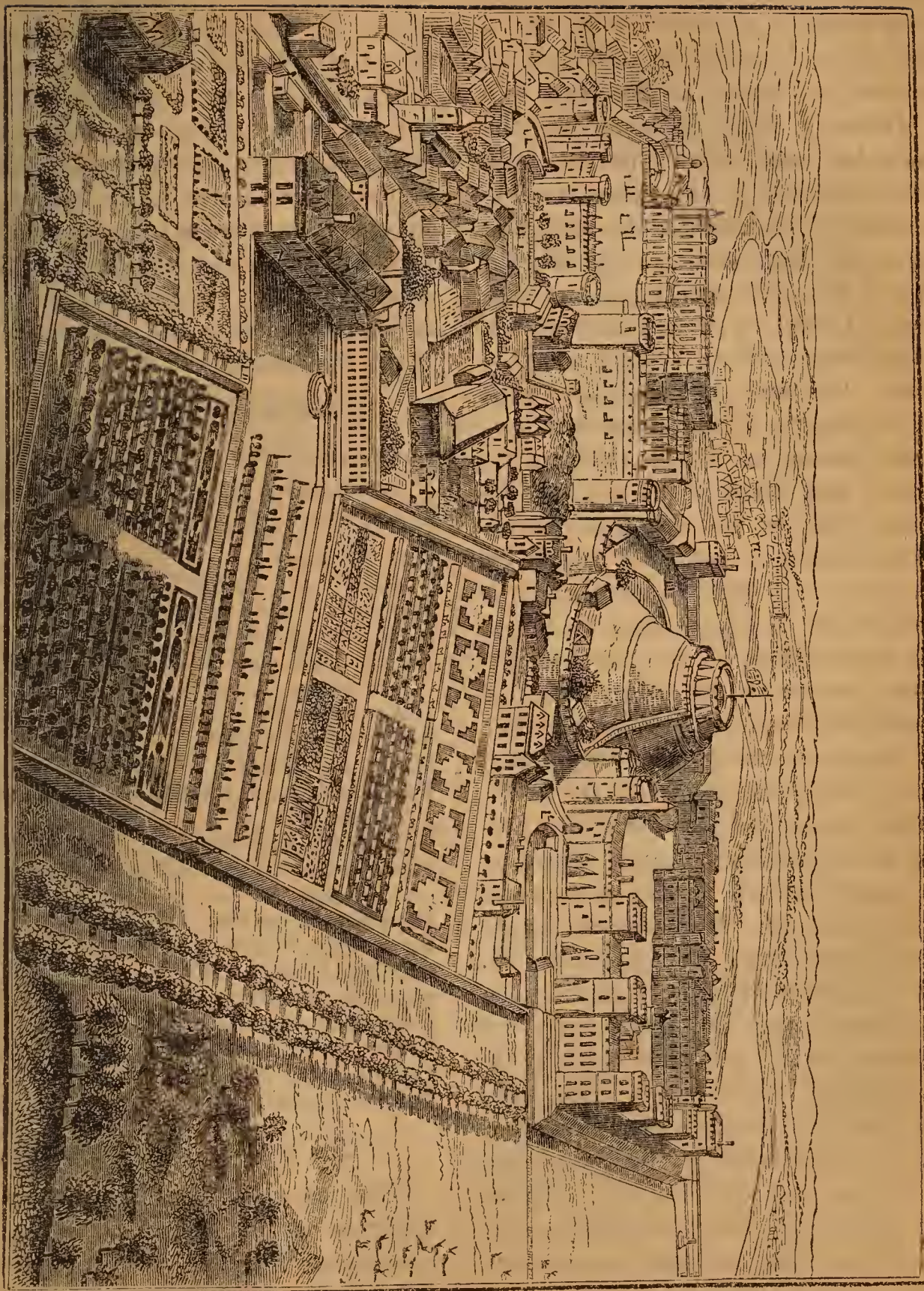
Queen Anne frequently resided at Windsor. In the reigns of the first and second Georges it was neglected. George III. dwelt for many years in a white-washed house at the foot of his own palace; till at length he determined to occupy the old Castle. The apartments were little adapted to the notions of modern comfort, but the Royal Family continued to reside here till the death of the King. George IV. inhabited the Castle as it was, for a few

months in 1823; but in 1824, its general decay and want of accommodation were brought under the notice of parliament. Commissioners were appointed for superintending the alterations, and a large sum was voted for the first outlay. Mr. Wyattville (the late Sir Jeffery) was appointed the architect; and from that time the works were carried on with unremitting diligence.

THE INTERIOR.

The apartments of the Queen and her Court are as numerous as they are splendid. Round the east and south sides of the quadrangle runs a corridor, forming a magnificent gallery above, and connecting the various parts of the immense range of offices below. The principal floor of this corridor is superbly furnished with pictures and statues. The chief apartments of the Queen are in the south-eastern tower, and the eastern front. The dining, drawing, and music rooms are of extraordinary dimensions, forming that fine suite whose grand oriel windows look out upon the eastern terrace. They are connected, at the north-eastern angle, with the state apartments, some of which, particularly St. George's Hall, are used on occasions of high festival.

The state apartments are exhibited daily to the public. Several of them have been completely remodelled under the parliamentary commission for the repairs of the Castle. The guard-room is now fitted up with great appropriateness: one of the most remarkable



[Bird's Eye View of Windsor Castle in the time of Charles II..]

objects is a bust of Lord Nelson, having for its pedestal a portion of the main-mast of the Victory, his own ship, on the deck of which he gloriously fell. St. George's Hall, as we mentioned before, has been entirely purified from the productions of the false taste of the time of Charles II. An adjoining chapel has been added to the original hall; so that it is now an oblong room of vast length, with a range of tall pointed-arch windows looking upon the square. Its walls, panelled with dark oak, are hung with the portraits of successive sovereigns of the Order of the Garter; and heraldic insignia of the ancient knights are borne on shields which surround the splendid room. Of the other new state apartments, the principal are the ball-room, glittering with burnished gold; and the Waterloo gallery, in which are hung the fine series of portraits of the princes, warriors, and statesmen, who were instrumental in forwarding that great victory.

The remaining state apartments present an assemblage of such objects as are usually shown in our palaces and noble mansions. Here are the gaudy ceilings of Verrio, where Charles II. and his Queen are humbly waited upon by Jupiter and Neptune; and the profligate who sold his country to Louis XIV. for a paltry bribe, and degraded the English court by every vice, is represented as the pacificator of Europe and the restorer of religion. But there are better things to be seen than these in the state apartments. There are many pictures of great beauty,

and several of transcendent excellence, which the best judges of art may come from the ends of Europe to gaze upon.

We subjoin a list of the pictures and the few sculptures in the state apartments which are exhibited to the public, in the order in which the rooms are shown. The entrance to the apartments is by a Gothic porch adjoining to King John's Tower. Here a porter will direct the visitor to the attendant who shows the rooms.

1. *The Queen's Ball-Room.*

The paintings in this room, which is of considerable extent, but without much embellishment, are all by Vandyck:—

Duke of Berg.
 Charles I. and family
 Duchess of Richmond.
 Lady Venetia Digby.
 Second Duke of Buckingham and his Brother.
 Duke of Carignon.
 Killigrew and Carew.
 Madame St. Croix.
 Four Portraits of Charles I.'s Queen, Henrietta.
 Charles I.'s Children.
 Head of Charles I. in three different points of view.
 Countess of Carlisle.
 Sir Kenelm Digby.
 Charles II. when a boy.
 Countess of Dorset.
 Vandyck's own Portrait.
 Three Children of Charles I.
 Charles I. on Horseback.
 Portrait of Snelling.

2. *The Queen's Drawing-Room.*

This room was decorated under the direction of the Queen Dowager, and the arms of England and Saxe Meiningen surmounted by the crown of Eng-

land are richly emblazoned on the cove of the ceiling; and in other compartments are inscribed the initials W. R. and A. R. The paintings are all by Zucarelli, and consist of eleven landscapes of Italian scenery and the following scriptural pieces:—

The Meeting of Isaac and Rebecca.

The Finding of Moses.

Jacob Watering his Flock.

3. *The Queen's Closet.*

This is a small room ornamented with rich festoons of fruit and flowers. The ceiling exhibits the words "Adelaide Regina, 1833" in gold, surmounted by the crown. The frames of the large mirrors are of massive silver. The paintings are:—

Portrait of Henry VIII.	<i>Holbein.</i>
Two Landscapes	<i>Claude Lorraine.</i>
A Head	<i>Leon. da Vinci.</i>
Ditto	<i>Rembrandt.</i>
Duke of Norfolk	<i>Holbein.</i>
Duke of Hamilton . . .	<i>Honthorst.</i>
Edward VI.	<i>Holbein.</i>
Virgin and Child. . . .	<i>Vandyck.</i>
Holy Family	<i>Sebas. del Piombo.</i>
Two Interiors of a Gallery	<i>Old Teniers.</i>
Landscape and Figures .	<i>Teniers, Jun.</i>
The Nativity	<i>Baroccio.</i>
A Portrait.	<i>Bassano.</i>
A Head	<i>G. Dow.</i>
A Head	<i>Rubens.</i>
Titian and Aretiuses . .	<i>Titian.</i>
Infant Christ	<i>C. Maratti</i>
St. John	<i>Guercino.</i>
Erasmus	<i>Geo. Penn.</i>
Four Sea Ports in Italy	<i>Carlo Veres.</i>

4. *The King's Closet*

Is decorated with naval emblems, and the initials "W. R." in the cove of the ceiling show that this apartment was

embellished under the direction of the only naval sovereign of England we have had since the Revolution. The pictures are numerous:—

The Emperor Charles

V.	<i>Sir A. More.</i>
Man's Head	<i>Parmegiano.</i>
Man with a Sword . . .	<i>Spagnoletti.</i>
St. Sebastian	<i>Guido.</i>
The Misers	<i>Q. Matsys.</i>
His own Portrait. . . .	<i>Vuncleeve.</i>
The Wife of	<i>Ditto.</i>
A Fair	<i>Breughel.</i>
Going into the Ark. . .	<i>Ditto.</i>
The Interior of a Picture Gallery. . . .	<i>E. Quillinus.</i>
Ecce Homo.	<i>Carlo Dolci.</i>
Madonna	<i>Ditto.</i>
St. Catherine	<i>Guido.</i>
Small Picture.	<i>Elchiner.</i>
Holy Family	<i>Tintoretto.</i>
The Woman at the Well.	<i>Guercino.</i>
His own Portrait with a Cupid	<i>Ditto.</i>
Encampment.	<i>Wouvermans.</i>
St. Catherine	<i>Domenichino.</i>
An Antiquarian with a Shell.	<i>Mireveldt.</i>
Head of a Young Man. .	<i>Parmegiano.</i>
Two Views of Windsor Castle.	<i>Vosterman.</i>
The Last Supper	<i>Rubens.</i>
Two Landscapes	<i>Wouvermans.</i>
Still Life, Shells, &c. . .	<i>Francis Franks.</i>
Prison Scene.	<i>Steenwyck.</i>
Landscape, with Horses	<i>A. Vandevelde.</i>
Music Master and Pupil	<i>Eglon Vanderneer.</i>
Two Holy Families . . .	<i>Teniers.</i>
Holy Family	<i>Julio Romano.</i>
Holy Family	<i>C. Procauni.</i>
Two Interiors	<i>Peter de Neef.</i>
Interior, with Figures .	<i>Jan Steen.</i>
Gardener to the Duke of Florence	<i>A. del Sarto.</i>
Duke of Alva	<i>Sir A. More.</i>

5. *The King's Council-Room*

Is in the style prevalent at the Restora-

tion, and the ceiling is ornamented with the arms of Charles II.: the initials C. R. and the date of 1660, the year of the Restoration, are inscribed at the quarterings of the shield. This apartment contains:—

Duke of Marlborough	<i>Kneller.</i>
Cleopatra	<i>Guido.</i>
Jonas	<i>N. and G. Poussin</i>
Female Head	<i>Parmegiano.</i>
Countess of Desmond	<i>Rembrandt.</i>
Sea Piece	<i>Claude.</i>
St. John	<i>Correggio.</i>
St. Paul	<i>Guercino.</i>
St. Peter	<i>Ditto.</i>
Man with a Book	<i>Holbein.</i>
A Sibyl	<i>Guercino.</i>
Female Head	<i>A. del Sarto.</i>
St. Catherine	<i>Leonardo da Vinci.</i>
Holy Family	<i>Garofalo.</i>
Man's Head	<i>Holbein.</i>
Three Landscapes	<i>G. Poussin.</i>
A Magdalen	<i>Carlo Dolci.</i>
Herodias' Daughter	<i>Ditto.</i>
Martin Luther	<i>Holbein.</i>
Silence	<i>A. Caracci.</i>
Man with a Book	<i>Parmegiano.</i>
Inside of a Farm-house	<i>Teniers.</i>
Two Church Pieces	<i>De Neef.</i>
Virgin and Child	<i>C. Maratti.</i>
View of Rome	<i>Claude.</i>
Landscape, with Claude drawing	<i>Ditto.</i>
St. Agnes	<i>Domenichino.</i>
Two Holy Families	<i>A. del Sarto.</i>
Landscape and Cattle	<i>Berghem.</i>
Prince Rupert	<i>Sir P. Lely.</i>

6. *The King's Drawing-Room.*

The ceiling of this room is very beautiful, consisting of wreaths encircling the letters G. R., the royal arms and various insignia, the effect of which is heightened by delicate gilding. All the paintings are by Rubens:—

Portrait of Rubens.
St. Martin dividing his Cloak.

Holy Family.
Philip II. of Spain, on Horseback.
Portrait of Rubens' First Wife.
Two Landscapes, Summer and Winter.
Archduke Albert.
Family of Sir B. Gerbies.
Battle of Nordlingen.
Portrait (unknown).

7. *The Vestibule*

Contains the following paintings by West, executed in 1787–8–9, illustrating some of the principal events of the reign of our great king Edward III.

The Battle of Cressy.
Surrender of Calais.
Edward entertaining his Prisoners after the Surrender of Calais.
Battle of Poitiers.
Battle of Neville's Cross.

The busts in terra cotta are Edward III. and his Queen Philippa.

8. *The Throne-Room*

Is one of the most splendid of the state apartments, and is highly and richly decorated with the insignia of the Order of the Garter. The panels of the walls are of oak with Gibbons' fine carvings; the face of the larger panels is velvet of garter blue, and the smaller ones contain mirrors. The only paintings are:—

The Installation of the
Knights of the
Garter *B. West.*
Portrait, George III. *Gainsborough.*
Portrait, George IV. *Sir T. Lawrence.*
Portrait, William IV. *Sir M. A. Shee.*

9. *The Ball Room*

Is ninety feet long and of corresponding proportions in other respects. The embellishments are in the style of Louis XIV. with a profusion of gilding, and the walls are hung with Gobelin tapes-

try, representing the story of the Golden Fleece. When used as a ball-room it is lighted with four splendid chandeliers.

10. *The Waterloo Chamber*

Is longer than the ball-room by eight feet, and the ceiling is in the style which characterises the old mansions of the reign of Elizabeth. The paintings are more popularly interesting than perhaps many of the finer productions of the old masters in the other apartments, being the portraits of men whose names are familiar to the existing generation—the sovereigns, statesmen and soldiers who either in the cabinet or in the field took a prominent part in the last pacification of Europe. The room is lighted by a gallery of ground glass. The paintings are as follow; and with the exception of William IV. by Wilkie; George III. by Beechey; Picton and the Marquis of Anglesea by Sir M. A. Shee, and General Kemp by Pickersgill, are all by Sir Thomas Lawrence:—

George IV.
William IV.
Prince Metternich.
Earl Bathurst, K.G.
Field Marshal Blucher.
Cardinal Gonsalvi.
Duke of Wellington.
His Holiness Pope Pius VII.
Earl of Liverpool, K.G.
Baron Hardenberg.
Count Capo d'Istrias.
Count Nesselrode.
Marquis of Londonderry, K.G.
Frederic William III. King of Prussia.
Francis II. Emperor of Austria.
Alexander, Emperor of all the Russias.
The Archduke Charles.
H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, K.G.

Duke of York.
Prince Schwartzemberg.
Right Hon. George Canning.
Count Munster.
Duke de Richelieu.
Baron Humboldt.
George III.
Lieut. Gen. Sir Thomas Picton.
Marquis of Anglesea.
Lieut. Gen. Sir James Kemp.

The visitor is next shown the *Grand Vestibule*, which contains suites of armour of the time of Elizabeth and Charles I.; the *Grand Staircase* with the marble statue of George IV. by Chantrey; the *State Ante-room*, which contains a painting on glass of George III. from Sir Joshua Reynolds; and he is then conducted to the *Guard Chamber*, a spacious room containing busts of Marlborough, Nelson, and Wellington, that of the naval hero being placed on that part of the mast of his own ship, the *Victory*, which was perforated at Trafalgar by a cannon-ball. The banners presented annually by the owners of Blenheim and Strathfieldsay are appropriately placed in this room, which contains many other interesting objects, but as they are enumerated and pointed out by the attendant, we need not describe them in this place.

15. *St. George's Hall.*

This apartment, dedicated to the most noble Order of the Garter, is generally allowed to be one of the most magnificent in Europe. It is 200 feet long, 34 broad, and 32 feet high, and the south side is lighted by thirteen windows. A noble simplicity is apparent in the decorations, which are in the

Gothic style, and well befitting the purposes to which the room is appropriated. The ceiling contains the armorial bearings of all the Knights of the Garter, from its institution to the present time. On the north side of the room in recesses corresponding with the windows on the opposite side are portraits of the following English sovereigns :—

James I.	<i>Vandyck.</i>
Charles I.	<i>Ditto.</i>
Charles II.	<i>Sir Peter Lely.</i>
James II.	<i>Ditto.</i>
Mary II.	<i>Sir G. Kneller.</i>
William III.	<i>Ditto.</i>
Queen Anne.	<i>Ditto.</i>
George I.	<i>Ditto.</i>
George II.	<i>Zeeman.</i>
George III.	<i>Dupont.</i>
George IV.	<i>Sir T. Lawrence.</i>
William IV.	<i>Ditto.</i>

16. *The Queen's Presence Chamber*

The ceiling is embellished in the hyperbolical style of Verrio, and the walls are hung with Gobelin tapestry, representing the story of Queen Esther. This room contains only two paintings :

Two Princesses of Brunswick, 1609	<i>Unknown.</i>
Duchess of Orleans, youngest daughter of Charles I. . . .	<i>Meneard.</i>

17. *The Queen's Audience Chamber*

Exhibits further specimens of Verrio's art; and the tapestry on the walls is a continuation of the subject in the previous room. The following paintings are in this apartment, which completes the suite exhibited to the public :—

Portrait of Mary Queen of Scots	<i>Janette.</i>
Frederick, Prince of Orange, grandfather of William III. .	<i>Vanhorst.</i>
William, Prince of Orange, father of William III. . . .	<i>Ditto.</i>

THE ROUND TOWER.

The Round Tower, the ancient keep of the Castle, is also exhibited to the public. The views from the top are exceedingly beautiful, and so extensive as to embrace parts of the following twelve counties :—Middlesex, Essex, Hertford, Bucks, Berks, Wilts, Oxford, Hants, Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Bedford.

There is nothing very remarkable in the apartments, except in the Armoury, where there are some curious specimens of the cumbrous fire-arms that were carried by the infantry in the early days of gunpowder warfare, when matches held the place of flints, and the charge of powder was borne in little wooden boxes, hung about the shoulders. Here are two suits of mail, said to have belonged to John King of France, and David King of Scotland, who were prisoners in this tower. The legend is appropriate, but not trustworthy. This tower is famous in the romance of history as the prison for many years of King James I. of Scotland, a true as well as a royal poet.

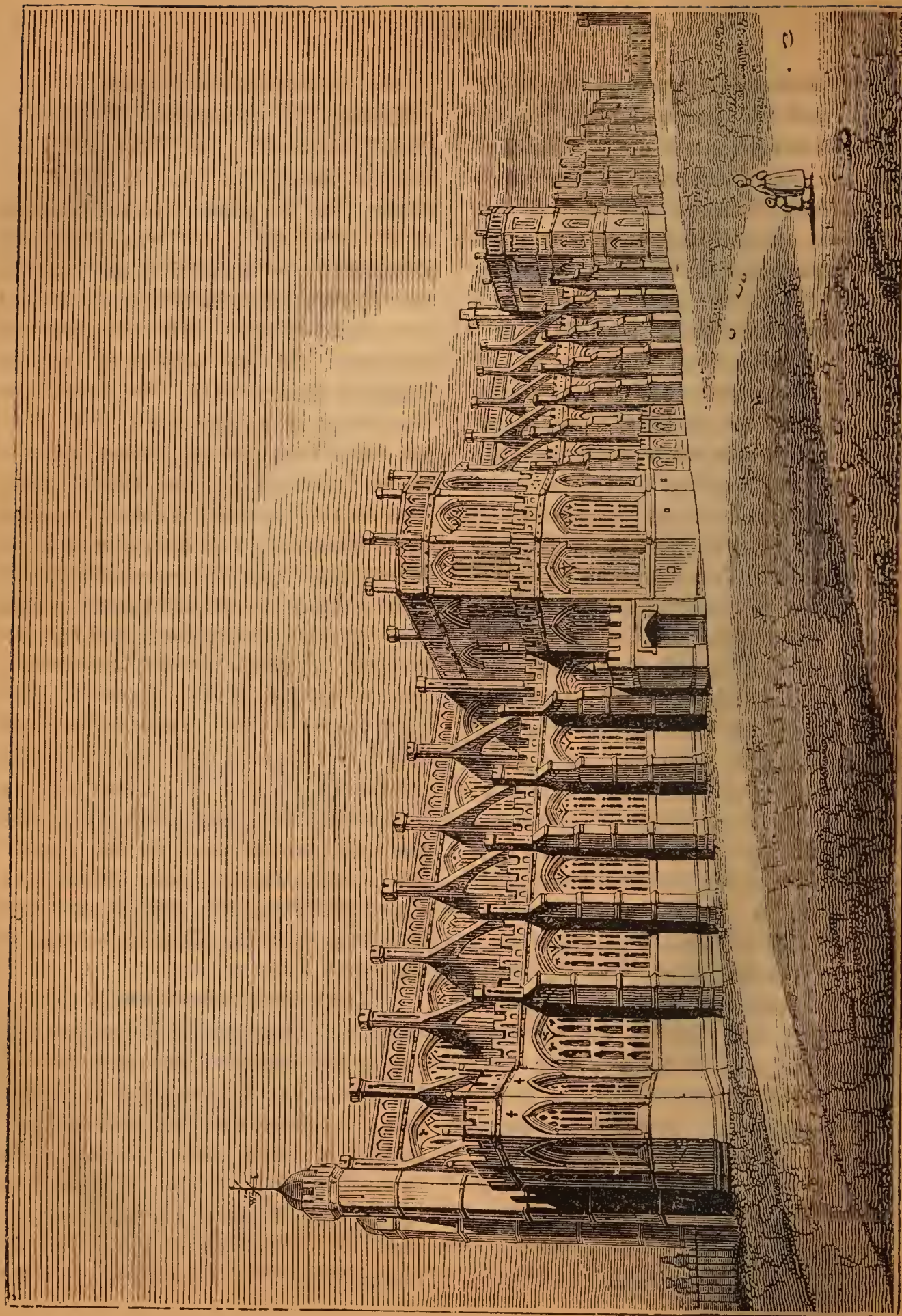
In one of Lady Mary Fox's annual volumes, published for the benefit of the Kensington school of Industry, there is an interesting record of other prisoners of less note, who have been confined at Windsor Castle, particularly of the faithful royalists who adhered to the cause of the unfortunate Charles I., some of whom traced with their own hands the records of their captivity in the Norman Tower. This tower is in that part of the castle which forms the

western entrance, between the north terrace and the keep, and the apartments formerly appropriated to the captives are now occupied by the state housekeeper. Various alterations which have been made from time to time have obliterated many of the sad memorials, so that there now only remain four tablets on which the names of the prisoners are engraven. The date in the majority of cases is 1648, a year fraught with disasters to Charles I. But there is one name which bears an earlier date—that of Sir Edmund Fortescue—who appears to have been an inmate of these apartments in 1642-43, as a tablet over the fire-place in a room which commands a fine view of the Thames and of the distant hills of Berkshire is inscribed as follows:—*Sr. Edmund Fortescue Prisoner In This Chamber The 12th Day of Januarie, 1642: Pour le Roy C.* The next room contains inscriptions which were evidently connected with the fatal conflict in South Wales several years afterwards. They bear the date of 1648. After the parliamentary victory of St. Fagons the estates of several gentlemen taken prisoners were sold, and the money given as a gratuity to the parliamentary soldiers. Deprived of property and liberty, the prisoners lingered in the Norman Tower until death or the Restoration put an end to their captivity. Another tablet is inscribed as follows:—“1648, Antho: Bayly. Pris: the 8. of Septem: Colches^r.” Bayly was one of the survivors of the memorable siege which Colchester sustained on behalf of Charles.

ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL.

Edward III. erected at Windsor a chapel dedicated to St. George, for the especial service of the Order of the Garter; but the present beautiful chapel is of later date. It was begun by Edward IV., who found it necessary to take down the original fabric on account of its decayed state. The work was not completed till the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. So beautiful a monument of architectural skill could not have been hurried forward as the ruder buildings of the Castle were. This is the object at Windsor, which is most deserving the lingering gaze of the stranger, and which loses none of its charms after the acquaintance of years. The exquisite proportions, and the rich yet solemn ornaments of the interior of this unrivalled edifice, leave an effect upon the mind which cannot be described. The broad glare of day displays the admirable finishing of its various parts, as elaborate as the joinery work of a cabinet, and yet harmonising in one massive and simple whole. The calm twilight does not abate the splendour of this building, while it adds to its solemnity; for then—

“The storied window, richly dight,” catches the last rays of the setting sun; and as the cathedral chaunt steals over the senses, the genius of the place compels the coldest heart to be devout in a temple of such perfect beauty. The richly-decorated roof, supported on clustered columns, which spread on each side like the branches of a grove—the painted windows, representing in glow-



[St. George's Chapel,—South Front.]

ing colours some remarkable subjects of Christian history—the banners and escutcheons of the Knights of the Garter, glittering in the choir above their carved stalls, within which are affixed the armorial bearings of each Knight Companion from the time of the founder, Edward III.; all these objects are full of interest, and powerfully seize upon the imagination. Though this building and its decorations are pre-eminently beautiful, it is perfectly of a devotional character; and if anything were wanting to carry the thoughts above the earth,

the observer must feel the vanity of all greatness and all honour, save the true and imperishable glory of virtue, when he here treads upon the graves of Edward IV. and Henry VI., of Henry VIII. and Charles I., and remembers that, distinguished as these monarchs were for contrasts of good and evil fortune, the pride and the humility, the triumphs and the degradations of the one and the other are blended in the grave—

“Together meet the oppressor and th’ oppressed”—



[Interior of St. George's Chapel.]

and they are now judged, as they wanted or exhibited those Christian excellencies which the humblest amongst us may attain.

There are not many monuments possessing merit as works of art in St. George's Chapel. The cenotaph of the Princess Charlotte is a performance of some excellence in particular figures; but as a whole, it is in vicious taste. Edward IV. is buried here, beneath the steel tomb of Quentin Matsys; his unhappy rival, Henry VI., lies in the opposite aisle, under a plain marble stone. Henry VIII. and Charles I. are entombed under the choir, without any memorial. At the foot of the altar is a subterranean passage communicating with the tomb-house, in which is the cemetery of the present race of kings.

THE PARKS.

Windsor Castle is surrounded on the north and south sides by a very beautiful domain called the Little Park. This park has no doubt been appurtenant to the Castle for a very long period. Here several of the most amusing scenes of Shakspeare's 'Merry Wives of Windsor' are laid; and, until lately tradition pointed out a withered tree as the identical oak of "Herne the hunter."

"There is an old tale goes, that Herne the hunter,
Some time a keeper here in Windsor Forest,
Doth all the winter time, at still midnight,
Walk round about the oak with great ragg'd
horns."

In the 'Pictorial Shakspeare' (Local illustrations of Act V. of the 'Merry

Wives of Windsor,') the controversy respecting Herne's Oak is brought together; and, on the authority of George III., it is stated that this famous tree was inadvertently cut down when the king was a young man. Fortunately a sketch of it had been made before it was felled.

This Little Park was formerly part of Windsor Forest; but in progress of time the public road to the town was carried through it, and parcels of land surrounding the town became private property. In the reign of Queen Anne that part of Windsor Forest which remained the property of the Crown, under the name of the Great Park, was cut off from the Castle by the intervening private property. To remedy this inconvenience it was resolved, in that reign, to purchase as much land as might be required to complete an avenue leading from the Castle to the Forest. This was done, and the present Long Walk was formed.

The Long Walk is generally considered the finest thing of its kind in Europe. A perfectly straight road runs from the principal entrance of the Castle to the top of a commanding hill in the Great Park, called Snow Hill—a distance of more than three miles. On each side of the road, which is slightly elevated, is a double row of stately elms, now at their maturity,—some indeed beginning to show signs of decay. Nothing can be finer than the general effect of this immense vista. The stranger who is tempted to pursue the road to its termination on the hill is



[Herne's Oak.]

amply repaid by a most splendid prospect, of great extent, and comprehending objects of powerful interest. He is now upon the ridge, whose continuation about a mile to the eastward, leads to a spot which has given a name to the earliest, and in some respects the best, descriptive poem of our language,

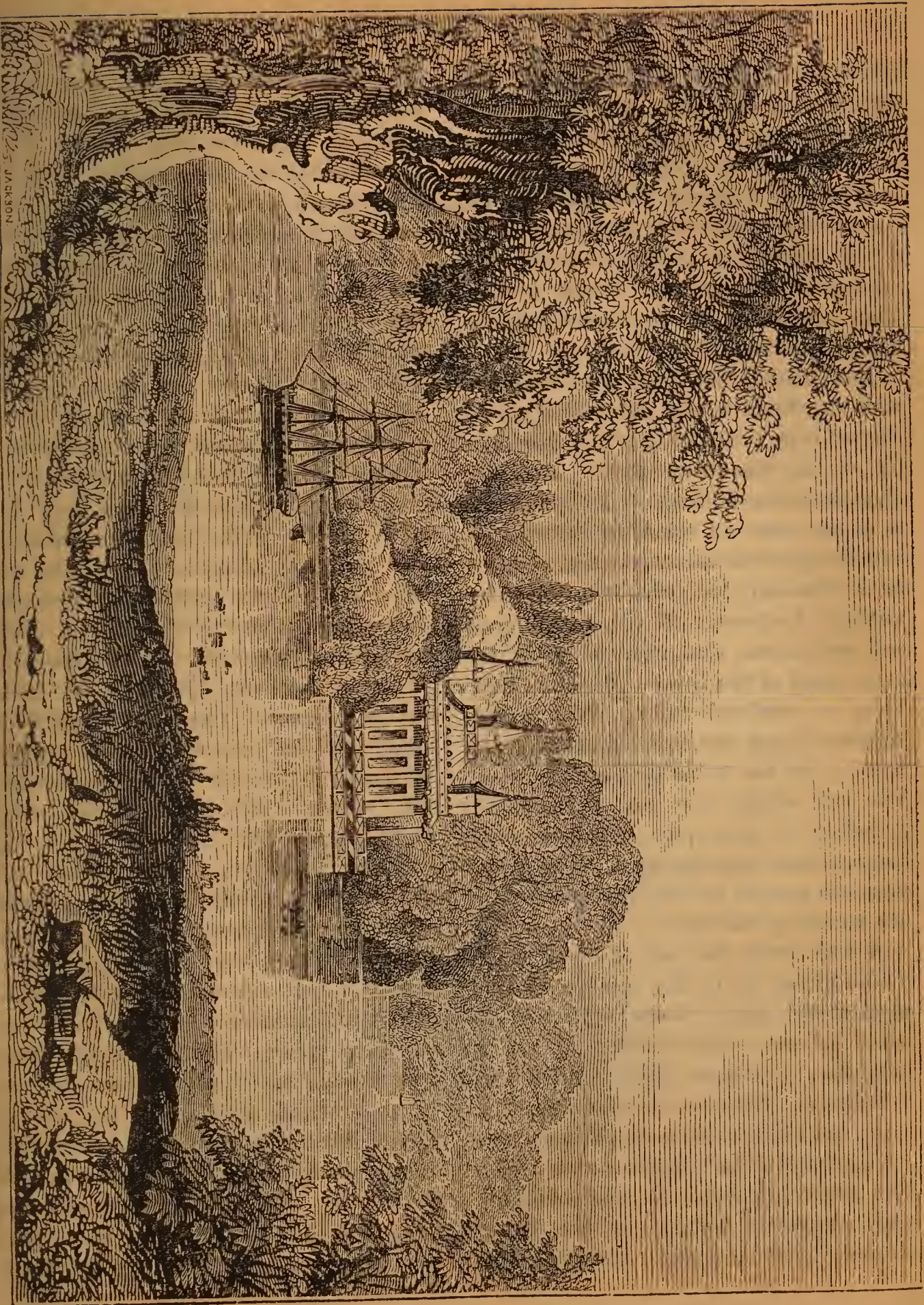
‘Cooper’s Hill.’ Windsor Castle appears almost at his feet ; to his left is a magnificent expanse of forest scenery ; to his right is the Thames, seen beyond the little plain of Runnemedes, where Magna Charta was extorted from King John by his barons. The hills in the distance are those of Harrow and Hampstead.

In 1832 a colossal equestrian statue of George III. was erected on the highest point of this hill. The figure terminates the avenue, at a distance of about three miles and a half from the Castle, and, of course, forms a prominent object at every step of the way. It is raised upon a mass of stones intended to represent a rock. The total elevation of the statue and its pedestal is more than fifty feet. The statue itself is twenty-six feet in height. The circumstance, however, of the gradual approach to it through a vista of very lofty trees, and the large forms of the trees immediately surrounding it, greatly diminish the effect of its gigantic proportions. Till the spectator approaches within a hundred yards, he does not feel that the figures are of colossal dimensions. The likeness of the face to George III. is very admirable; but those who recollect that monarch in his plain blue coat, or his military jack-boots, will have difficulty to recognise him in his Roman costume.

The walks and drives through the Park present scenes of great loveliness and variety. One of the most pleasing roads leads to a village on the verge of the Great Park called Blacknest. Here is an entrance to the fine lake amidst the woods called "Virginia Water," to which admission is given on application at the Keeper's Lodge. This district of the forest was planted, and the lake formed, under the direction of Paul Sandby, at a time when Duke William of Cumberland resided at the lodge

which bears his name, lying not far from the top of the Long Walk. The lake is the largest piece of artificial water in the kingdom; if artificial it can be called—for the hand of man has done little more than turn the small streams of the district into a natural basin. The grounds are several miles in extent; although so perfectly secluded that a traveller might pass on the high road without being aware that he was near any object that could gratify his curiosity. They are now covered with magnificent timber, originally planted with regard to the grandest effects of what is called landscape gardening.

Entering by the gate at Blacknest, we pass through a close wood of pines to some "alleys green," which lead in different directions. Those to the right carry us up a steep hill, upon the summit of which is a handsome building called the Belvedere. Those to the left conduct to the margin of the lake. A scene of great beauty soon bursts upon the view. A verdant walk, bounded by the choicest evergreens, leads by the side of a magnificent breadth of water. The opposite shore is covered with heath; and plantations of the most graceful trees—the larch, the ash, and the weeping birch, ("the lady of the woods,") break the line of the more distant hills. The boundary of the lake is everywhere most judiciously concealed;—and the imagination cannot refrain from believing that some great river lies beyond that screening wood. Every now and then the road carries us through some close



[Fishing Temple on Virginia Water.]

walk of pines and laurels, where the rabbit and squirrel run across with scarcely a fear of man. But we again find ourselves upon the margin of the lake, which increases in breadth as we approach its head. At the point where it is widest, a fishing temple was erected by George IV.; which, as seen from the shore we are describing, is represented in the wood-cut.

The public road from the Western road to Sunninghill and Reading is carried over a bold arch which is not far out of the line of our walk. This is a singularly beautiful spot. To our minds it is not now so much in accordance with the general character of the scenery as it was some ten years ago. Several antique fragments of Greek columns and pediments, that used to lie in the court-yard of the British Museum, now form an artificial ruin. *Real ruins*, removed from the sites to which they belong, are the worst species of exotics. The tale which they tell of their old grandeur is quite out of harmony with their modern appropriation. The ruins here are prettily put together; but they are merely picturesque.

A walk from this spot of a quarter of a mile brings us to the cascade at the head of the lake. Cascades are much upon the same plan, whether natural or artificial; the scale alone makes the difference. This cascade is sufficiently large not to look like a plaything; and yet it gives but an imperfect notion of a fine natural cascade. It wants height, and volume of water. In the latter particular of excellence, however, the

grandest cascades are often very disappointing. After a mountain storm, when the *gills* (little runnels) sparkle down the sides of the barren rocks, and the *force* leaps over some fearful chasm in one unbroken sheet, cascades are worthy of the poetical descriptions which have been so often lavished upon them. In other seasons they appear very feeble additions to the charms of the mighty lakes and solemn mountains amidst whose solitudes they are found.

From the bottom of the cascade a road has been formed to the bank of the lake, opposite that which we have been describing. The walks here are as verdant and as beautiful as those we have left. We reach a rustic bridge, and cross one of the streams that feed the lake. Here we are in a more wild and open country. We may trace the course of the little stream amongst the underwood; or strike into the path which leads to the village of Bishopgate. The finest woodland scenery, and spots of the most delicious seclusion, where nothing is heard on a summer noon but that indescribable buzz with which every lover of solitude is familiar, will amply repay for a lingering hour. Bishopgate is a beautiful spot, surrounded by the most delightful varieties of hill and dale, of wood and water. The poet Shelley, who had a true eye for the picturesque, resided for some time here. The Royal Lodge, which was close by, (the favorite retreat of George IV.,) is now pulled down. The common road from Bishopgate to Windsor is through that vista of magnificent elms, the Long Walk al-

ready described. There is a more secluded horse-road, which affords some exquisite views of the Castle, and many forest scenes of striking beauty; or the pedestrian may take a foot-path leading through the plantations to Old Windsor Church, which stands in the extreme eastern point of the county, and in the very rural and solemn churchyard of which lies interred the celebrated Mrs. Robinson. From thence, returning to Windsor, by the road which leads from Egham through Runnemede and Old Windsor, the traveller will pass Frogmore, the elegant residence of the Princess Augusta. The gardens and

grounds comprise about thirteen acres laid out in the most approved style of horticultural taste. The flower parterres, lawns, and embowered walks, are everything which could be desired in a pleasure-ground, and the scene is diversified by a marine grotto, a Brahmin's hut, a temple dedicated to Solitude, an Italian temple, a hermitage, and a picturesque Gothic ruin, from a design by Mr. Wyatt, containing an oratory. A piece of water forms a refreshing feature in front of the principal apartments. The house and grounds may be visited occasionally in the absence of her royal highness.



[Scene in Windsor Forest.]

CHAPTER III.

WINDSOR TO READING.

THE traveller to whom the most direct communication is the most desirable, having to proceed from Windsor to Reading, will return to Slough, and continue by the railway. To the lover of fine scenery, on the other hand, nothing can be more interesting than several of the high-roads, particularly those of the district formerly known as Windsor Forest. There is a choice of routes.

THE FOREST ROAD.

Leaving Windsor by Peascod Street, we reach a suburb called Spital, and then on to CLEWER GREEN, in Clewer parish, which extends into and comprises a considerable portion of the town of Windsor. The village of Clewer is situated on the bank of the Thames, about one mile west of Windsor. Amongst other memorials in the parish church is a brass, on which are some lines commemorative of Martin Expence, who shot a match of archery against one hundred men, near Bray. The road continues through some of the finest scenery of the Great Park, passing under the beautiful seats of St. Leonard's Hill and St. Leonard's Dale, on to Winkfield Plain. WINKFIELD is sur-

rounded by several agreeable seats : Cranbourn Lodge, built by the Earl of Ranelagh, in the reign of Charles II., the successive residence of several members of the royal family, is now pulled down. There is an endowment in this parish for educating and clothing twenty-one boys and twenty-one girls, and 5*l.* is paid as a premium on their being apprenticed. Attached to the school is a chapel in which service is performed ; and the annual value of the endowment is said to amount to 250*l.* per annum. The school-house was built in 1710 by the Earl of Ranelagh. Ascot, where one of the chief racing meetings in the kingdom is held, is in the parish of Winkfield. Warfield is a parish containing a considerable hamlet, Bracknell, where three annual fairs are held.

BINFIELD, three miles from Wokingham, and about eight from Windsor, is situated on the northern border of the heaths which extend along the southern edge of the county. Besides Binfield Manor House and Binfield Place there are several other seats in the neighbourhood.

Henry, Earl of Sterling, secretary of state for Scotland, who died in 1739,

Admiral Sir Edward Vernon, who took Pondicherry, and Mrs. Catherine Macauley Graham, authoress of a history of England, are interred at Binfield. It is, however, most celebrated as having been the residence of Pope from the early age of six until he removed to Twickenham. The father of the poet, having accumulated a considerable fortune by business in London, retired to this place during the infancy of his son, and here purchased a house and estate. Speaking of this house, Pope calls it

———“ my paternal cell.
A little house, with trees a-row,
And, like its master, very low.”

About half a mile from the house, an interesting memorial of the poet still remains, or at least did so a few years since, when the writer last visited the spot. There is here a fine grove of beeches, pleasantly situated on the gentle slope of a hill, which commands an agreeable though not extensive view of the surrounding country. This grove was a favourite resort of Pope's, who is said to have composed many of his earlier pieces sitting under the shade of one of the trees, below which a seat was then placed. The recollection of this circumstance was preserved by Lady Gower, an admirer of the poet, who caused the words “*HERE POPE SUNG*” to be cut in large letters in the bark, at some height from the ground; and as this inscription, at the time we mention, was distinctly legible, it was no doubt, at one period, occasionally renewed. About seventeen years ago, when first

seen by the writer, the tree was standing in a sound state, and apparently little injured by time, although the bark, to the height of seven or eight feet, was nearly covered with the names of visitors, many of which, with the dates, were cut deeply into it. When the writer last saw this interesting relic of the poet, a year or two after his first visit, it presented a sad appearance of dilapidation; the upper part of the tree having been entirely broken off by a violent storm which had happened a short time previous, and lying prostrate on the ground, stripped of its branches, as shown in a drawing, which was made at the time, of which the engraving is a copy. It is somewhat remarkable that none of the neighbouring trees were injured by the storm, which thus destroyed the object which, for near a century, had consecrated the spot.

Bill Hill, a little to the left of the road, in the parish of Hurst, is a seat of the Gower family. Bambridge House occupies an eminence in the vicinity; and near it is Haines Hill Park. Billingbear Park is on the left before reaching Binfield; and Bear Wood about a mile beyond Bill Hill.

About five miles from Reading, the road from Windsor enters into the great Bath Road, described in the next chapter.

THE WOKINGHAM ROAD.

The road from Windsor to Wokingham is in fact the same as that last described; but it may be varied by branching more into Windsor Forest in the direction of Sunning Hill and Bagshot.



[Pope's Tree at Binfield.]

WOKINGHAM, or Oakingham, a market town in the precincts of Windsor Forest, about seven miles E.S.E. from Reading. The parish is partly in Berkshire and partly in an insulated district of Wiltshire; the chief part of the town, however, is in the former. Wokingham consists of several streets meeting in a common centre, where they inclose a spacious area, comprising a neat market-place and the principal shops. The market is held by prescription: in 1227 the bishop of Salisbury procured a grant from the king, that he might hold the market here peaceably. In 1258 the same bishop had the grant of two fairs. The church, which stands in the Wilts district, is a large handsome structure, and contains a monument to Thomas Godwin, bishop of Bath and Wells, who lies buried here. There are places of worship for Baptists and Wesleyan Methodists. In the parish register is a record of the burial of Thomas Buck in 1682 at the age of 115. The town-hall and market-house is a very ancient building, framed with timber. There is an abundant supply of water from the wells. The atmosphere of Wokingham is considered peculiarly pure and healthy, and the inhabitants are noted for longevity. The market, held on Tuesday, is famous for the great quantity of poultry generally offered for sale, and which is bought by higglers to be retailed in London. The fairs are held on the 23rd of April, 11th of June, 11th of October, and 2nd of November: the two first, however, are insignificant, and not even held with regularity. The inhabitants are princi-

pally employed in the malting and flour trades, in throwing silk, and in the manufacture of gauze and shoes. The woollen manufactory was also formerly carried on. The government of the town is vested in an alderman and eleven burgesses. A court of quarter sessions sits twice in the year: the ancient (Windsor) forest courts were also held in Wokingham. The free schools, supported by bequests and subscriptions, educate thirty-six boys and twelve girls. There are two day and Sunday schools on the national system, in which above two hundred children of both sexes are instructed: the school-house is a substantial building, erected at an expense of 700*l*. The charities are numerous. The principal is the hospital on Luckley Green, a mile out of the town, founded by Henry Lucas, Esq., in 1665, for sixteen poor pensioners and a master, under the direction of the Drapers' Company. The hospital is a handsome brick building, which cost 2300*l*.; attached to it is a chapel with a residence for the minister, who is the perpetual curate of the parish. There are also almshouses for sixteen men and women, the foundation of Mr. Thomas Westead in 1451.

The well-known song of 'Molly Mog' is connected with the Rose Inn here, which was kept by the father of the fair one. The current tradition of the place is, that Swift, Gay, and other poetic friends, having met upon some occasion to dine at the Rose, and being detained within doors by the weather, it was proposed that they should write a song, and that

each person present should contribute a verse: the subject proposed was the Fair Maid of the Inn, who, according to Lysons, died a spinster at the age of 67: Lysons states that the other party alluded to in this production was the last heir male of the Standen family of Arborfield.

Near Luckley Green is a chalybeate spring, called Gerrick Well.

About three and a half miles south of Wokingham is FINCHAMPSTEAD, which had once an annual fair, long since discontinued. The right of holding a fair is one of the privileges of the manor of West Court in this parish.

About two and a half miles south-east of Finchampstead, and five from Wokingham, is SANDHURST, and in that part of the parish which abuts on the London and Exeter road is the Royal Military College for the instruction of cadets for the army, and where commissioned officers prepare themselves for the higher branches of their profession. The college is a plain edifice with a Doric portico, and is calculated to accommodate four hundred cadets and thirty students of the senior class, with the officers and masters of the institution. A chapel, an observatory, and a riding-school appertain to the college, and the whole suite of buildings stands in the midst of a plantation and pleasure ground. The Royal Military College was commenced at High Wycombe in 1799; three years afterwards it was removed to Great Marlow; and in 1812 the institution was placed at Sandhurst. Just at the southern extremity of the

parish of Sandhurst, not far from the college, stands an obelisk, which it is said may be seen on a clear day from Hampstead Heath with a good telescope.

Leaving Wokingham by the road to Staines, we have EASTHAMPSTEAD on the right, three miles from Wokingham, and about one and a half mile from the road. In the reign of Richard II. (1377—1399) there was a royal hunting-seat here, which appears to have been used occasionally down to the reign of James I. On one occasion, when Queen Catherine was at Easthampstead Park, Henry VIII. sent some of the lords of the council to her there to prevail upon her to consent to a divorce. In the parish church are interred Sir William Farnbull, secretary of state in the reign of William III., and Fenton, the poet, both friends of Pope, who wrote each of their epitaphs. Easthampstead Park is the seat of the Marquis of Downshire.

About one and a half south of Easthampstead Park, and three and a half miles from Wokingham, is the spot called Cæsar's Camp, an irregular fortification occupying the summit of an eminence, and flanked by a double ditch. Within a mile southward of Cæsar's Camp, on Easthampstead Plains, are traces of a Roman road, now called the Devil's Causeway, or the Devil's Highway. In the section on 'Roman Roads and Stations in Berkshire,' which the bishop of Cloyne contributed to Lysons' History, the following account is given of this road:—"The Roman road from Silchester to

London passed in all probability through the south-eastern borders of the county, by Park Lane, Stanford, and Finchampstead. Traces of it appear for some miles on Bagshot Heath, not far from Wickham Bushes, where it is called the Devil's Causeway, being raised, with a trench on each side of it, and not less than ninety feet wide: it seems to bear for Old Windsor or Staines, in a line on the other side of which, on Hounslow Heath, it was plainly discovered by General Roy, at the side of our modern western road. It must also be observed, that near the course we suppose this Roman road to have taken, about a quarter of a mile from Bagshot Park, and at the same distance from the cross road leading from Bagshot to Bracknell, in a farm above Heatly Bottom, called Roundabout, Roman pottery has been found, and part of a Roman camp: the same kind of pottery has also been found in great abundance near Wickham Bushes, all which tends to confirm the idea that the great western road to London in the time of the Romans passed through or near this part of the county of Berks." Near this road is Wishmoor Cross.

On the north-east we have Bagshot Heath. The village of Bagshot is in Surrey, but a part of the heath is in the parish of Wokingham. The southern extremity of Bagshot Park, the residence of the late Duke of Gloucester, is just within the limits of Berkshire.

Previous to reaching the main Bath road, we cross the Loddon, and pass White Knights, about two miles from

Reading. This is a plain white building, situated in the centre of grounds, remarkable for the combination of the useful with the agreeable, and once celebrated for the extensive botanical gardens containing a valuable collection of rare exotics. It is said that White Knights was one of the earliest examples in this country of the *Ferme Ornée*. The grounds were formed by the late Duke of Marlborough, when Marquis of Blandford.

BY TWYFORD.

There is a very quiet and in many parts picturesque road from Windsor to Twyford, and this way is considerably shorter than either of the others. But, except in dry weather, it is scarcely passable. It passes through green lanes from Windsor to Oakley Green, Tutchen End, Fifield Green, White Waltham, Shottesbrooke, and St. Laurence Waltham, and gains the main road at Twyford.

At WHITE WALTHAM was a manor which formed part of the endowment of the college at Shottesbrooke. According to Hearne, Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII., once resided in the ancient manor-house, which was surrounded by a moat. The parish church contains a monument of Sir Constantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, an ancestor of the Marquis of Normanby. Hearne, the antiquary, whose father was parish clerk of White Waltham, was born here in 1678.

The parish church of SHOTTESBROOKE, a handsome edifice, in the form of a

cross, contains monuments of Sir William Trussell, the founder, and his lady ; also one of his daughters, with her effigy in brass, having a richly ornamented head-dress. There are several other effigies in brass ; and monuments of Henry Dodwell, Camden, professor of history at Oxford in the early part of last century, and of Francis Cherry, his friend, and the patron of Hearne, the antiquary.

At Shottesbrooke was formerly a small religious house, founded in 1337 by Sir W. Trussell, of Cublesdon in Staffordshire. The foundation consisted of a college and chantry, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, for one warden, five priests, and two clerks. Although Sir William took care to have it well endowed, yet, in the course of a few years, owing to fire and other accidents, the foundation was reduced to such a deplorable condition, that the whole establishment, with the exception of John Bradford, the warden, quitted it. The circumstances at length reaching the king's ears, he gave license to appropriate the church of Battlesden, in this county, to it ; which was accordingly done in 1380. Having received so considerable an accession to its

revenues, together with other benefactions, it continued in a flourishing state till it was suppressed with other religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. The last warden was Sir William Throckmorton, who lies buried in the parish church.

Shottesbrooke House is a substantial brick castellated edifice, ornamented in parts with stucco, and surmounted by an embattled parapet. A neat corridor leads to the interior from the garden. The manor of Shottesbrooke was anciently held by a singular service, that of providing charcoal to make the crown and other regalia for the king's coronation, the sum of sixty shillings and tenpence being allowed for the same. This singular tenure originated in the time of William Rufus, when the manor of *Sottesbrok*, as it was then called, was held by Alward the goldsmith. A family who took their name from the village, were the most ancient possessors of this demesne, of whom mention is found. It passed from their hands in the beginning of the 14th century, and was afterwards in the possession of several families until the year 1713, when the representative of F. Cherry, Esq., sold it to an ancestor of the Vansittart family.

CHAPTER IV.

MAIDENHEAD TO READING.

By the railway the Maidenhead station is only four miles from the one at Slough. The London and Bath road enters Berkshire at Maidenhead, which is twenty-five and a half miles from London. We may either proceed to Reading by the railway, a distance of nearly fourteen miles, or pursue the highway. In the latter case the traveller will pass through or near to the places subsequently described, commencing at Maidenhead.

MAIDENHEAD is a small but neat town, a little way from the Thames, which is crossed by a handsome bridge. The town was formerly called South Ealington, and the name Maidenhead was said to have been given to it from the veneration paid to the head of one of the eleven thousand British virgins who, according to an ancient but fabulous legend, were martyred by Attila, king of the Huns; but as in the most ancient records it is written Maidenhithe or Maydenehythe,* it is more likely that the name was first given to the spot where Maidenhead bridge now crosses

the Thames, where was formerly a great wharfage of timber and firewood. There has been a bridge at this spot from an early date, certainly from the thirteenth century, and the erection of it diverted the course of the great western road, which appears before that time to have crossed the river about two miles higher, at Babham Ferry, near Cookham. From this change of the road the town of Maidenhead took its rise, and it soon outstripped Bray, which may be considered its mother-town, and in which parish it partly stands.

Maidenhead consists of one long paved street. It has a chapel, erected of late years on the site of a former one taken down as being too small. The bridge consists of seven semicircular arches of stone, and three smaller arches of brick at each end. There is an almshouse founded by James Smith, Esq., in 1659, between the bridge and the town, for eight poor men and their wives. The chief trade of the place is in meal, malt, and timber; and it is a great thoroughfare, in consequence of which there are several inns. The market is on Wednesday, and is a considerable mart for corn. There are three fairs. Maidenhead has a corporation, consisting of a

* Hithe is a word of Saxon origin (*hæh*, a ditch or trench), and is said to signify a small port or quay; thus we have Lamb-hithe or Lambeth, Queenhithe; Hythe on the Kent coast, &c.

mayor, high steward, steward or recorder, and eleven burgesses, two of whom are annually chosen bridge-masters. The mayor, high steward, steward, and the mayor of the preceding year are justices of the peace; and the mayor presides in a court for the recovery of small debts, which is held every three weeks. The corporation have the power of making bye-laws, and there is a jail for debtors and felons. The corporation revenues consist chiefly of the tolls of the markets and the bridge. The town is in the parishes of Cookham and Bray; the chapel is in the former. The minister is appointed by the mayor and bridge-masters, and is said to be exempt from episcopal jurisdiction. The population, owing to the town not forming a distinct parish, cannot be given. It is probably about 1500. There are a National school and a Sunday school, and three dissenting places of worship.

About $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the left of Maidenhead is BRAY (near the road from Maidenhead to Windsor), which gives name to a hundred, and in the parish of which, as already stated, the town of Maidenhead partly stands. It is celebrated for the versatility of principle manifested by one of its incumbents, whence 'the Vicar of Bray' has become a proverbial expression for a man who can shift his principles with the times. The well-known song of 'the Vicar of Bray' represents this personage as living in the time of Charles II. and his successors, down to George I.; but Fuller, in his 'Worthies of England,' gives the following account:—"The vivacious

vicar hereof, living under King Henry VIII., King Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, was first a Papist, then a Protestant, then a Papist, then a Protestant again. He had seen some martyrs burnt (two miles off) at Windsor, and found this fire too hot for his tender temper. 'This vicar being taxed by one for being a turn-coat, and an unconstant changeling, 'Not so,' said he, 'for I always kept my principle, which is this, to live and die the vicar of Bray.' Such many, now-a-days, who, though they cannot turn the wind, will turn their mills, and set them so, that wheresoever it bloweth, their grist shall certainly be grinded." (Vol. i. p. 79, Nichols' edit. 1811.)

About one mile westward of Bray is OCKWELLS, formerly called Ockholt, a most interesting specimen of the old manor-house. The hall windows contain the arms of England with antelopes as supporters, from which circumstance, Lysons conjectures that Ockwells was built in the reign of Henry VI., he being the only English sovereign who introduced them in his arms. This inference is correct; for Henry died in 1461, and in 1465, John Norreys (probably a descendant of Richard de Norreys, cook to Eleanor, queen of Henry III., who had granted Ockholt to the said Richard) made a will in which he left a certain sum for the completion of the present mansion, "to the full building and making uppe of the chapell, with the chamber adjoyning, within my mannor of Ockholt, in the parish of Bray, not yet finished." About sixty years ago, a

considerable portion of the manor-house was burnt down, a beggar having set fire to some straw in shaking out the unextinguished ashes of his pipe. The portion now existing is a farm-house in the possession of John Shackell, Esq. The numerous gables of the old mansion are most striking and picturesque, and the porch and corridor have a quaintness united with simplicity which renders them very pleasing. Unfortunately the effect of the fine old carved roof of the hall is injured by a flat ceiling. The large window of six bays is in a very perfect state. The windows are chiefly occupied with coats of arms, having crests and lambrequins, one in each window, on a ground of diagonal stripes, containing flowers and mottoes in text hand, placed alternately. Among the arms are those of King Henry the

Sixth, with the antelopes, his supporters; and of his queen, Margaret of Anjou, with her supporters, the antelope and eagle; also the arms of Norreys, with beavers for supporters; the Abbey of Westminster; Beaufort, Duke of Somerset; Edmund, last Earl of March; Henry, Duke of Warwick; De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk; Sir William Beauchamp, Lord St. Amand; Sir William Lacon of Bray, Chief Justice of the King's Bench; the Lord Wenlock; Sir Richard Nanfan, Captain of Calais; Sir John Pury, Knight, of Chamberhouse Castle, in the parish of Thatcham, and of one or two other distinguished personages.

The arms of King Henry VI., Queen Margaret, and the Norreys family, are the most striking. In the compartment containing the first there is the crown



[Manor-house, Ockwells.]

with the arms of England beneath ; and down the window are repetitions of the motto, "Dieu et mon Droit," running obliquely from left to right. In another compartment, devoted to Queen Margaret of Anjou, there is the crown of the Queen Consort, with the arms beneath, and, running from left to right as in the last instance are repetitions of the Queen's motto, "Humble et Loiall." In the compartment of the Norreys family, there are the family arms, and numerous repetitions of the family motto, "Feythfully serve," with the name *Norrrys* at the left hand bottom corner.

In a very beautiful work by Mr. Nash, entitled 'The Mansions of England in the Olden Time,' there are three different views of this old house ; and in concluding his account of Ockwells he says :—" Altogether, this house is well deserving the attention of the architect as well as the antiquary ; for it offers many features that might be adapted to the present style of building country residences of moderate dimensions."

On the direct road, about two miles from Maidenhead, is MAIDENHEAD THICKET, in former times a notorious resort of highwaymen. The course of the road is through a beautiful woodland country past Folly Hill, from which the views are particularly fine ; next past Reading Pond, Vines Hill, Stubbing Heath, and Littlewick Green, with Ashley Hill on the right, and then past Knowl Hill, Bear Hill, Kiln Green, and Scarlet's, to—

TWYFORD, so called from there having been two fords here over the river Lodon, not far from its confluence with the

Thames. Twyford is a chapelry within the parish of Hurst, and is distant about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the parish church, but in 1721 an episcopal chapel was built at the expense of Edward Polehampton, Esq. He also founded a charity school for the education of ten boys ; and in 1640, Lady Frances Winchcombe left a charitable provision for six poor persons. The parish of Hurst is very extensive, and consists of four liberties, each of which appoints its own local officers. The manor was originally granted by King Edgar to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. In the church are some handsome monuments, particularly the two following :—A monument to Lady Margaret Saville, wife of the learned and munificent Sir Henry Saville, warden of Merton College, Oxford, and founder of the professorships known by his name in that university ; and one to Sir Richard Harrison and his lady. Sir Richard on two different occasions raised a troop of horse for the service of Charles I. at his own expense. The monument represents him in armour, kneeling on one knee, whilst his lady is reclining with one arm on a stool, and holding a broken cord in the hand of the other. The figures by Stanton are well executed in white marble. Haines Hill, in this parish, is the birth-place of Sir Francis Windebank, Secretary of State to Charles I.

About a mile and a half from Twyford, on the left, is the small parish of RUSCOMB ; and SONNING is on the right, distant about two miles. It is in the hundred of Sonning, and is distant about

three miles N.E. from Reading, on the banks of the Thames, over which there is here a bridge. It has been said that this place was a bishop's see, during the separation of Wiltshire, and, as some suppose, Berkshire, from the see of Sherbourn; but Bishop Tanner's editor, on the authority of William of Malmesbury, who expressly says that Wiltshire only was separated from Sherbourn, is of opinion that the bishops of the new see had no other seat than Ramsbury, until Bishop Herman removed to Old Sarum. It is certain that the bishops of Salisbury held the manor of Sonning at the time of the conquest, and that the manor house was, for some centuries afterwards, their occasional residence. Isabel, queen of Richard II., lived at Sonning during the interval between the deposition and death of that unfortunate king. Leland describes the mansion, in his time, as a "fair old house of stone," and that there was "thereby a fair parke." There are various monu-

ments in the parish church, and between the body of the chancel and its north aisle, a beautiful pointed arch, elaborately enriched with figures of saints, &c. The parish is extensive, containing no less than 7000 acres, exclusive of that portion of it which is within the adjoining insulated district of Wiltshire. Woodley Lodge, once the property and residence of Lord Sidmouth, is in this parish; also Early Court, which stands near the London and Bath Road. Holme Park stands near the bridge of Sonning, upon an eminence overlooking the Thames and the beautiful valley through which the river winds for some distance, and is lost among the remote hills. Holme Park is a handsome modern-looking edifice, square, and built of white brick. The principal front has a bold circular portico.

Pursuing the main road, we reach Reading in the course of five miles.

MAIDENHEAD TO READING, BY HENLEY.

THIS is a route which is only likely to be adopted by the traveller who is making a pleasure-tour, for though it presents some of the most beautiful scenery of which England can boast, yet a considerable detour from the direct road must be made in order to enjoy it. The following directions will be found useful to the tourist, who we may assume is a pedestrian, or travelling on horseback, or in his own vehicle:—

Immediately on entering Berkshire, by the bridge at Maidenhead, there is a road near the banks of the Thames leading to Cookham, past Taplow Mills, Ray Mills, and over Milbrook Common, which affords views of the most beautiful scenery of the hanging woods, above which stand Cliefden and Hedsor, Taplow House, Taplow, Taplow Lodge, on the Buckinghamshire side of the river. The scenery of the Thames,

from Maidenhead to Wargrave, is of the highest order of beauty; but a description of it more properly belongs to Buckinghamshire.

COOKHAM, which gives its name to a hundred, is about three miles north of Maidenhead. It had formerly a market, and has still a fair, and a statute for hiring servants. Maidenhead is partly in this parish. The church contains several monuments of the families of the old gentry who have been settled here at various periods. Near the chancel is a brass plate to the memory of a former vicar of the parish, who is styled, "Pylgrim of Jerusalem, and canon professed of the house of our lady at Gisborough, in Yorkshire." A bridge has been erected this year over the Thames by which a communication is effected between Maidenhead, and High Wycombe.

Passing over Cookham Common we reach BISHAM, four miles and a half north-west of Maidenhead, and about one mile from Great Marlow, in Buckinghamshire. A monastery was founded here in 1357, and endowed with 300*l.* per annum by William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury. Many noble personages were interred in the conventual church,—among whom were William, Earl of Salisbury, the son of the founder, who distinguished himself at Poitiers; Thomas, Earl of Salisbury, who died at the siege of Orleans in 1428; Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury and Warwick, beheaded at York in 1460 for his attachment to the Lancasterian cause; Richard Neville, the great Earl of

Warwick and Salisbury, and his brother John, Marquess of Mountague, both of whom fell at the battle of Barnet in 1470; and Edward Plantagenet, Earl of Warwick, son of the Duke of Clarence, beheaded in 1499 for attempting to escape from confinement. Such were the stormy lives and eventful histories of the aristocracy of England at this period! The splendid monuments to the memory of these men, which Bisham once contained were destroyed after the dissolution of the abbey. The prior of Bisham at its surrender was made a bishop, and afterwards married and had five daughters, each of whom married a bishop. A pointed door-way, which forms the entrance to the mansion of Bisham Abbey, is the only existing remains of the old conventual building. In an aisle or chapel adjoining the parish church is a richly ornamented window, and a monument with effigies in armour of two of the Hoby family. This chapel was built by one of the learned daughters of Sir Anthony Coke, wife of Sir Thomas Hoby, and the epitaph in Latin verse on her husband's monument was written by her.

HURLEY, about five miles from Maidenhead, and about four from Henley on Thames, not far from the Oxford road, is pleasantly situated in a valley, sheltered on both sides of the river by gently-descending and well-wooded hills. It has an ancient and retired look, the houses are old and built partly of timber, with deep porches and seats, covered with mosses and vines, con-

trasting somewhat singularly with the smart inn and new toll-house at the entrance of the village. The church, which stands near the manor house is old and plain. The view from the hills above the village of Hurley is very fine.

Hurley House, associated with our recollections of a great event in English history—the Revolution of 1688—was pulled down a few years ago. It was situated in one of the most picturesque windings of the Thames, the grounds extending to the banks of the river. The site of Hurley House was a Benedictine monastery, founded in the reign of William the Conqueror, and dedicated to the Virgin; hence the house, which was built about the beginning of the seventeenth century, was termed Lady Place. The manor came into the possession of the Lovelace family in the sixteenth century; and the house was built by Sir Richard Lovelace, who was “knighted in the wars,” as his epitaph declared, and who was reputed to have acquired a large sum of money on a sea expedition with Sir Francis Drake. His son was made Baron Lovelace of Hurley.

The house was a most perplexing labyrinth of dark rooms running one into the other, —and of “passages that lead to nothing.” The hall, which was of large size and lofty dimensions, had two entrances, one from the garden, and one from the grounds leading to the Thames. The ceiling was covered with plaster mouldings of elegant flowing scroll-work, intermixed with fruit and flowers; and the walls were also ornamented with

groups of musical instruments, books, &c., inclosed in borders, all of plaster. On one side of this spacious apartment was a staircase leading to a balcony running round it, from which were doors to rooms on the second story. The rooms were panelled, as was also the hall or saloon; the panels being painted with landscapes, or else carved in arches and lozenges. The landscapes were about fifty in number, painted in a broad and free manner: they have been attributed to Salvator Rosa, but we believe they were the work of Antonio Tempesta. The lower rooms, with their large bay windows and painted and carved panellings, must have been, especially when filled with the massive antique furniture of the period, extremely rich, light, and imposing. But the upper rooms, which were not intended for show, presented a great contrast; they exhibited little either of elegance or comfort. The gutters from the roof ran through them, by which the external air was freely admitted at all seasons, as well as a copious share of the rain.

In the reign of James II., John, Lord Lovelace, “kept house” at Lady Place with a profuse hospitality that afterwards ate like a canker into his fortune. But it was under cover of this hospitality that the meetings of the noblemen of England were held, which resulted in the Revolution of 1688. The vault under the hall of the house was the burial vault of the monastery which formerly occupied the site: an inscription on the floor records that

"Three bodies in Benedictine habits were found under this pavement." The ceiling of the vault is about six feet and a half high. The following inscription records the chief facts connected with the history of the vault :—

" DUST AND ASHES,
" Mortality and Vicissitude to all.

* " Be it remember'd that the Monastery of Lady Place (of which this Vault was the *Burial Cavern*) was founded at the time of the great Norman *Revolution*; by which *Revolution* the whole state of England was changed.

Hi motus animorum; atque hæc certamina tanta
Pulveris exigui jactu compressa quiescunt.

* " Be it also remembered, that in this place six hundred years afterwards the *Revolution* of 1688 was begun. This House was then in the Possession of the Family of Lord Lovelace; by whom private meetings of the Nobility were Assembled in the Vault; and it is said that several consultations for calling in the Prince of Orange were held in this Recess. On which account this Vault was Visited by that powerful Prince after he had ascended the Throne."

[The inscription also farther recorded the visits of General Paoli in 1780 and of George III. and his queen in 1785.]

Lord Lovelace was rewarded by King William with the post of Captain of the Band of Gentlemen Pensioners. He fitted up Lady Place with great splendour, and lived in a style which involved him so much in debt, that the greater portion of his estate was sold under a decree of the Court of Chancery. The house then passed through various hands. In 1837 its dilapidation condemned it to be pulled down.

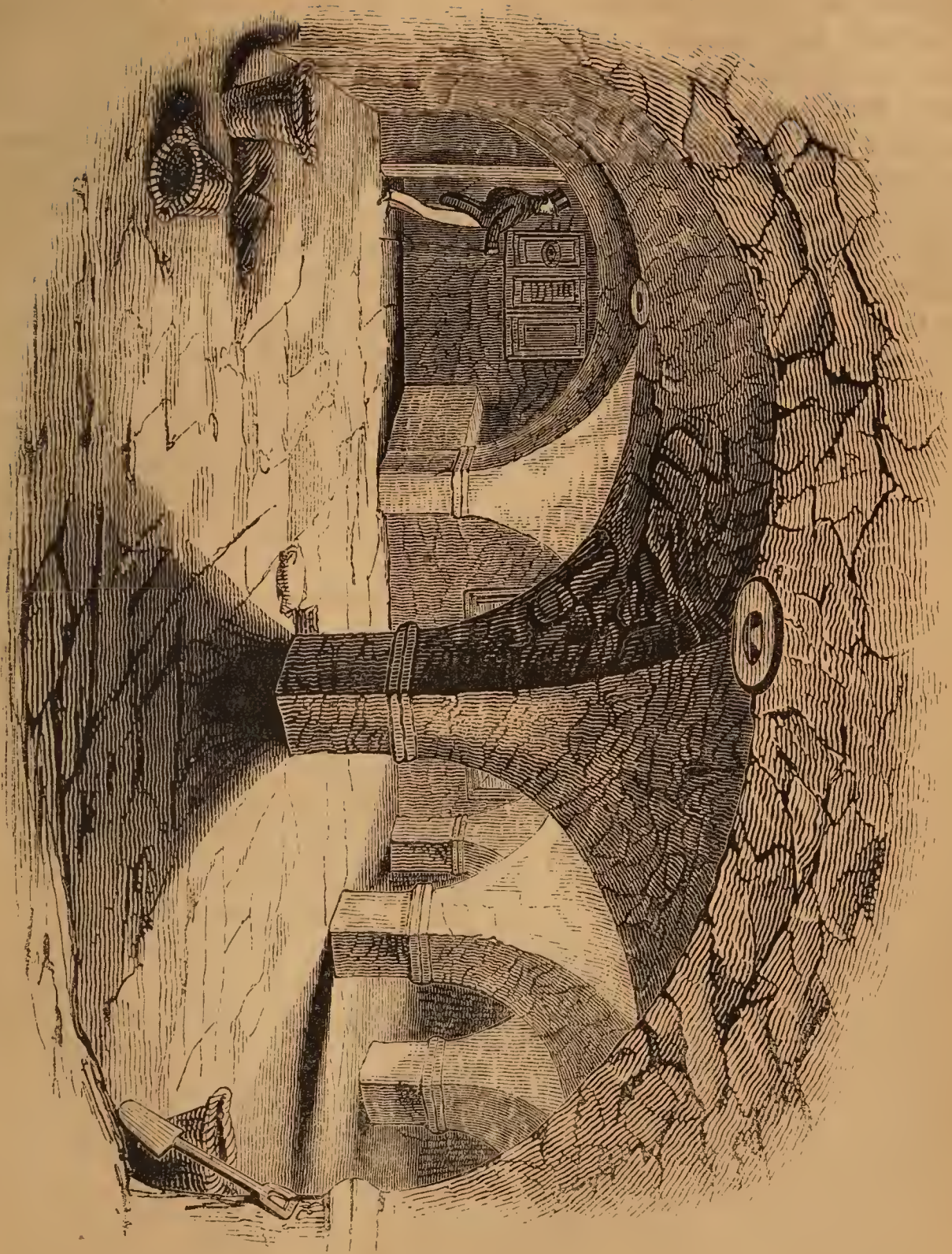
Leaving Hurley we proceed to Prospect Hill and Rose Hill, from which

the road passes direct to Henley, but the tourist who wishes to follow more closely the course of the Thames will proceed by Culham Court, Aston, and Remenham. There is also a road from Henley to Reading which partly follows the windings of the Thames on the Buckinghamshire side of the river.

REMENHAM is about a mile and a half from Henley. Park Place, once the seat of Marshal Conway, is in the parish, a short distance south of the road leading to Henley. The mansion is situated at an elevation of about three hundred feet above the Thames on a range of hills which bounds the river for several miles. The grounds command a view of the town of Henley, an extensive and varied prospect of the high lands in Oxfordshire; and the Thames is one of the chief features of the landscape. In the park is a Druidical temple brought from Jersey, and presented to Marshal Conway, governor of the island, by whom it was removed to its present situation. There is a subterranean passage, nearly one hundred and seventy yards long leading to a valley planted with cypress, at the end of which is a ruin representing a Roman amphitheatre. Across the road leading from Wargrave to Henley is a large arch constructed partly of blocks of material taken entire from the ruins of Reading Abbey.

WARGRAVE, on the banks of the Thames, about three and a half miles from Henley, and about midway between Maidenhead and Reading, gives its name to the hundred. It had formerly

[Vaults at Lady Place.]



a market, granted in 1218 to the bishop of Winchester. Queen Emma, mother of Edward the Confessor, gave the manor and hundred to the see of Winchester. Bear Place, an elegant modern mansion, is finely situated on an elevated spot surrounded by woodlands. The parish church contains a monument to the memory of Mr. Thomas Day, author of 'Sandford and Merton,' who died in 1789 at the age of 41. The lines on his monument were written by himself

for another person, and were placed here by his widow. Derham, author of the "Physico-Theology," was vicar of the parish from 1682 to 1689.

Leaving Wargrave the road recedes from the river, and at a distance of about a mile and a half from the village, in a direction nearly due south, joins the London and Bath road at Twyford. The route from Twyford to Reading is given in the preceding part of this chapter.

CHAPTER V.

READING.

BETWEEN Maidenhead and Reading there is an intermediate station on the line of the railway at Twyford. Reading is also on the great Bath road, whose course from its entrance into the county to Reading is described in chapter iv. As the county town of Berkshire, and one to which the facility of access, especially from London, has been so much increased since the opening of the Great Western Railway, we have devoted a considerable space to an account of its history, antiquities, and present state.

Reading is pleasantly situated on the Kennett, chiefly on the left bank, about a mile or a mile and a half before it flows into the Thames. Reading lies thirty-eight miles in a straight line west by south of St. Paul's, London; or thirty-eight miles (measured from Hyde Park Corner) by the road through Windsor Great Park; or thirty-nine through Maidenhead, the latter being the great line of road from London to Bath and Bristol. The Great Western Railway, which passes through the northern suburbs of Reading, brings it in reality more than one-half nearer to London than these distances. Letters are conveyed from London twice a-day

by the railway, and the communication by post is as rapid as between the extremities of the metropolis.

Reading is not only the county town, but also a parliamentary as well as a municipal borough, and returns two members. The town is wholly within the limits of the borough, which consists of the entire parish of St. Lawrence, and parts of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Giles. The borough boundaries are well known, and remain unaltered from a very early period: the limits of the parliamentary borough are identical with those of the municipal, and comprise about 2080 English statute acres. The origin of the name is generally ascribed to *rhyd*, a ford, and *ing*, a meadow. The earliest historical notice of Reading occurs in the ninth century. Ivor, a Danish freebooter, landed at Southampton in the year 868 with a considerable army; and marching into the interior of the country, fixed his head quarters at Reading. About two years after this, Ivor was followed by Hinguar and Hubba, who brought with them a still more numerous army. These chieftains, after defeating and killing the king of the East Angles, marched to Reading. There they dug



[Reading from Caversham Hill.]

a trench for the better defence of the town, running from north to south between the Thames and the Kennett. In the battle of Englefield, which immediately succeeded, the Danes were beaten, and pursued to Reading by Ethelred and his brother Alfred, afterwards so distinguished as the Great. Various other engagements took place in the neighbourhood, in one of which Earl Ethelwelf, the English leader, was slain, during a rally from the town. Ultimately a treaty was concluded, by which the Danes agreed to quit Reading. They then marched to London. In 1006 Sweyn, King of Denmark, marched through Hampshire, and, coming to Reading, reduced it to ashes with the nunnery erected by Elfrida in expiation of the murder of her step-son Edward the Martyr. In 1153 the castle, which had been in Stephen's possession, was given up to Henry Duke of Normandy, afterwards King Henry II., pursuant to an agreement concluded before the walls of Wallingford. At this time it appears the edifice was utterly demolished. No traces of it now remain except in the name *Castle Street*. In 1163 Henry presided at a single combat fought in the neighbourhood of Reading, probably on an island to the east of Caversham Bridge, between Henry de Essex, the King's standard-bearer, and Robert de Montfort. The latter accused his antagonist of cowardly or treacherously abandoning the royal banner upon a false report of the king's death or capture by the Welsh. Essex was vanquished and

left for dead on the field; but he recovered, and having forfeited his possessions to the crown, was permitted to assume the religious habit and become a member of Reading Abbey. In 1185 Henry met Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, here, who presented to him the keys of the holy sepulchre, and the royal banner of Jerusalem; and endeavoured, though without success, to induce him to set forth on an expedition against the Saracens. Richard I. held a parliament at Reading in 1191. In 1209 a great number of professors and students of Oxford came to reside here, on account of the unjust treatment they considered themselves to have received from the King (John) in consequence of the death of a woman killed by a priest. Three years afterwards, the Pope's Legate held a council here with the view of effecting a reconciliation between King John and the exiled barons. In the following year John himself came to Reading to meet the legate and the barons, and held a parliament. Henry III. held parliaments here in 1241 and in 1263. In 1314 Edward II. visited Reading, and an inhabitant afterwards petitioned parliament for the value of twenty-three quarters of oats and some litter, which had been seized without payment for the king's use: the application was successful. A grand tournament was held here by Edward III. in 1346. At Reading Richard II. and his barons were reconciled in 1389, through the instrumentality of John of Gaunt. In the year 1440, 1451, and 1452, parlia-

ments were held here; the last by adjournment from Westminster, on account of the plague. In 1464 the marriage of Edward IV. with Lady Grey was first made public at Reading, when the queen appeared in state at the Abbey, led by the Earls of Gloucester and Warwick. The parliament was again adjourned from Westminster on account of the plague in 1466. From the same cause, in 1625, the first year of the reign of Charles I., Michaelmas term was held here. The High Court of Chancery, the Courts of King's Bench, Common Pleas, of Wards and Liveries, and of Requests, were held in the great hall and other parts of the Abbey; the Court of Exchequer in the Town Hall, and the Court of Augmentation in the school-house. In 1642 we find Reading a parliamentary garrison, described as generally well fortified, but wanting ordnance. The governor was Harry Marten, who, on the approach of the king, quitted the town with the garrison. The Earl of Essex and Sir Thomas Skippon, on the part of the parliament, besieged Reading in the following year, when various entrenchments were thrown up. A fort at Caversham Hill, constructed by the king's party, was taken, and from thence the town was battered with considerable effect. The steeple of St. Giles's Church appears to have been then knocked down, the garrison having placed ordnance in the building. Sir Thomas Aston, the governor, being wounded, the command devolved on Colonel Fielding, who capitulated on the 27th of April. At the very same time

the king was within a day or two's march, coming to relieve him. Lord Clarendon relieves Colonel Fielding from any imputations of cowardice or treachery; the surrender, however, ruined his military reputation: he was never afterwards intrusted with any command. Sir Samuel Luke, the Hudibras of Butler, was in the parliamentary army on this occasion, and kept a record of the siege. After the first battle of Newbury, Reading again came into possession of the king, and Sir Jacob Astley was made governor, who afterwards for his conduct in this position was made Baron Astley of Reading. In 1644 Charles demolished the works, and left the town to be taken possession of by the Earl of Essex, the parliamentary general. In January, 1646, Reading was garrisoned for the parliament, and martial law declared; and in the succeeding year the town became the head-quarters of the parliament commander-in-chief, Fairfax. During these alternations of party triumph, the inhabitants were almost ruined by the heavy contributions to which they were subjected. The last historical circumstance worthy of note is connected with the revolution of 1688. The troops of King James and those of the Prince of Orange met here, and a trifling skirmish ensued, in which fell the only officer who perished in that expedition. At the same time, from a mere trifling incident that occurred in Reading, arose that widely-spread rumour that the Irish troops in the service of James were committing the most dreadful excesses upon the inhabitants, and

which was called the "Irish Cry." For a century the anniversary of this skirmish, dignified as the Reading fight, was commemorated by the ringing of bells.

Among the antiquities of Reading, the abbey of course forms the chief object of interest. This was one of the richest religious houses in the kingdom, and of the class called Mitred Abbeyes, or, in other words, whose abbots sat in parliament: the abbot of Reading took precedence in the House of Peers next after the abbots of St. Alban's and Glastonbury. It was founded by Henry I. in 1121, who endowed it for the support of 200 monks of the Benedictine order, and bestowed on it various important privileges. Among them were those of conferring knighthood, coining money, holding fairs, trying and punishing criminals, &c. The founder also gave a relic, assumed to be the hand of the Apostle James. The abbey provided for the poor, and necessary entertainment for travellers. William of Malmesbury, who, however, died about 1142, says there was always more spent by the monks on strangers than on themselves. Henry authorised the abbey to coin in London, and keep there a resident master or moneyer. The privilege of coining was entirely withdrawn in the eighth year of Edward II.'s reign (1315), but partially restored in the twelfth of Edward III. (1339). At the dissolution, in 1539, the abbot, Hugh Cook, alias Hugh Faringdon, whom Hall in his Chronicle calls a stubborn monk, and absolutely without learning, was, with two of his monks, hanged, drawn, and

quartered for denying the king's supremacy—a charge that seems but ill supported by the recorded testimony of the king's visitor, Dr. Loudon. The clear revenues at this period were valued at 1908*l.*, which Lysons, writing in 1806, considers equivalent to at least 20,000*l.* The commissioners also found considerable quantities of plate, jewels, and other valuable articles. Henry VIII. and his successors for some time kept a portion of the abbey reserved for their occasional residence. But after the reign of James I. it does not appear to have been long occupied as a royal residence. The buildings generally began to decay, and immense quantities of the materials were carried off. Some of these were used in the construction of the hospital for poor knights at Windsor, and in the rebuilding of St. Mary's church. Many large masses were used by General Conway in the construction of that singular bridge at Park-place, near Henley, which is thrown across the high road. The abbey appears to have been surrounded by a wall with four arched and battlemented gateways, the ruins of some of which are still visible. There was also an inner court, with a gateway, which still exists. The north front has a beautiful Saxon arch, with an obtuse point at the top, rising from three clustered pillars without capitals. Among the chief remains is a portion of the great hall now used as a school-room. The dimensions of the hall were eighty feet by forty. There were three large entrance doors for the cloisters, and five noble windows in the

circular end of the room. Here it is supposed were held the numerous parliaments before mentioned. Many fragments of the massive walls still remain dispersed about. They have lost their outward casings, and consequently the flint and gravel beneath, of which they are constructed, is visible. The dimensions of the abbey church are thus given by Sir Henry Englefield, who carefully examined the ruins in the latter part of the last century:—Eastern chapel, 102 feet by 52; choir, 93 by 34; breadth of side aisles, 19 feet; transept, 196 by 56; nave, presumed to have been 215 feet in length; and the extreme length of the church, 420 feet. What remained of the church up to the period of the Civil War was then further dilapidated; the ruins of the north transept in particular are then recorded to have been blown up. The abbey mills are still remaining in excellent preservation, and exhibit in different parts arches evidently coeval with the abbey itself. Over the mill-race is a large Norman arch with a zig-zag moulding. The founder, Henry I., and his second wife Adeliza, were buried in the abbey church, and probably Matilda, his first queen. The Empress Maude, William, eldest son of Henry II., and other illustrious persons were also buried here. In 1815 a fragment of a stone sarcophagus in two pieces was found about the centre of the choir, supposed, with some probability, to have been Henry's coffin.

The Franciscan friars settled here in 1233. Their convent stood near the

west end of Friar Street. On its dissolution, the warden petitioned that he and his brethren, being aged men, might be permitted to occupy their lodgings during life; but even that humble request was denied. The church was formerly used as a town-hall, and it now serves as a bridewell. The walls remain entire: the nave is divided from the two narrow aisles by clustered columns and pointed arches. The west window is handsome, and in excellent preservation. According to Leland, there was also on the north side of Castle Street "a fair house of Grey Friars." This, it is thought, was on the site now occupied by the Methodist chapel. There were three hospitals in Reading: St. Mary Magdalen's, which, it is supposed, stood near the great gate of the abbey; St. Lawrence's, which stood near the church, founded about 1190, for the constant support of thirteen poor persons, and occasional reception of thirteen other poor sick persons, particularly lepers, belonging to Reading, and of strangers who passed through Reading; and lastly, St. John's, intended for certain poor women serving God night and day, and praying for the king's estate, and the souls of the founders and benefactors. They had a fair chapel for divine service. There were ultimately brethren also attached to this hospital. The revenues were entirely alienated by Abbot Thorne, and applied to the use of the abbey. It was then, as we shall hereafter see, converted into a grammar-school. St. John's hospital is now used as the town-hall. Near the



[Ruins of Reading Abbey as they appeared in 1721.]

west end of Friar Street stood St. Edmund's chapel, built and endowed by a burgess in 1284. It was desecrated in 1479, the chapel having been previously converted into a barn. This was used in the Civil War as a fort. It was afterwards taken down, and rebuilt at Battle Farm, but has been since destroyed by fire.

Reading is a borough by prescription. The corporation was originally a guild merchant, existing, it is said, as early as the reign of Edward the Confessor, by virtue of a charter supposed to have been then obtained. The guild was composed of five companies of freemen, enjoying extensive privileges. The earliest known charter, which is not, however, in existence, was granted by Henry III. in 1253. The members of the guild were called burgesses as early as 1254, when the right of the abbot of Reading to elect the master was affirmed. In 1351 this master was called the mayor. Various succeeding charters were granted by Henry VII., Henry VIII., Queen Elizabeth, and Charles I. By the charter granted by this last monarch the town was governed up to the period of the recent municipal changes. These charters are all in excellent preservation; that of Henry VII. is splendidly illuminated, and the initial letter contains his portrait. The guild was dissolved prior to the operation of the charter of Charles I. The corporation now consists of a mayor, six aldermen, and eighteen burgesses. The borough is divided into three wards. The borough courts consist of a court of quarter sessions, a

court of record limited to cases not exceeding 10*l.* in amount, and a court leet holden by the corporation as lords of the manor of Reading. A petty sessions for the division is held every Saturday. The gaol in the Friary church is small and confined; and for some years an arrangement has been made with the authorities of the county gaol, in pursuance of which, only debtors and persons under confinement previous to commitment are lodged in the borough gaol. The police force has been greatly improved within the last ten years. The Lent or spring assizes are held at Reading, the summer at Abingdon. The epiphany quarter sessions for the county, and occasionally the Michaelmas sessions, are held at Reading. Reading has returned members to parliament from the earliest period of parliamentary history. The right of election in 1700 was adjudged to be in the freemen not receiving alms, and in the inhabitants paying scot and lot; in 1716 it was determined to be in the latter only.

The town is in the form of an equilateral triangle, consisting of four principal streets, crossed by various other smaller ones, and is divided in the centre into various small islands (connected by bridges) by the branches of the Kennett. The streets are for the most part spacious and well built, and present no inconsiderable number of handsome-looking houses, as well as some important public buildings. Here and there may still be seen erections of the fifteenth century, with their charac-

teristic high gables. There are several excellent wharfs on the Kennett; and altogether Reading presents ample evidence of the prosperity it has now for some years enjoyed, and which appears to be still increasing. The population has increased from 10,788 in 1811 to 15,595 in 1831.

Within the space formerly enclosed by the outer walls of the abbey is a public place called the Forbery. This is bounded on the north by a long terrace-walk, affording a delightful view of the Oxford hills and the fertile valley between through which runs the Thames. Near the southern extremity of the town is a stratum of oyster-shells.

The ancient parish churches are St. Mary's, St. Lawrence's and St. Giles's. St. Mary's church stands, according to tradition, on the site of the nunnery of Elfrida before mentioned. It is said to have been the earliest Christian fabric erected in this part after the conversion of the inhabitants. It was formerly called the Minster, hence the name of an adjoining street. In 1547 the old (and probably the Saxon) church was pulled down, and the present one built on the site, partly from the ruins of the Abbey. It is a plain massive structure in the later style of English architecture, with a beautiful square tower of tessellated flint and stone. The living is a vicarage, endowed with the great tithes, in the patronage of the crown. The net income, on an average of three years ending in 1831, was 661*l*. The church-lands produce an income of about 127*l*., which is applied to the

general purposes of church-rates. St. Lawrence's church was rebuilt, or extensively repaired, in 1434. Among the relics belonging to it in 1517 was a gridiron of silver-gilt, containing within a relic professed to be a bone of St. Lawrence. The living is a vicarage without tithes or glebe. Prior to the Reformation the vicar was provided with lodging, board, clothing, a horse, &c., by the Abbot. The average net income for 1831 and the two preceding years was 276*l*. The patronage rests with St. John's College, Oxford. During Elizabeth's occasional residence at the Abbey, she used to attend St. Lawrence's, where a canopied and tapestried pew was provided for her, and on her visits the aisles were strewed with rushes and flowers. St. Giles's church is also an endowed vicarage, the average net income for the years 1829-30-31, was 522*l*. The church was completely repaired in 1829, with the surplus of certain property charged with annuities. St. John's church is a new edifice, erected under the authority of the Commissioners for building new churches. There is a Chapel of Ease attached to the vicarage of St. Mary's, erected a few years ago by the Rev. G. Hulme; and the Castle-street chapel, which some time ago was considered to belong to the Countess of Huntingdon's connexion, was, through the instrumentality of the trustees, consecrated for the service of the Church of England. All the principal Dissenting bodies have chapels at Reading.

Of the other public building we may first mention the Oracle, a notable ex-

ample of poor-law fallacies. In 1624, John Kendrick gave funds to the corporation to purchase a strong house of brick to set the poor at work in, on the woollen manufacture. This was to be furnished, and for its maintenance a large sum was set apart as a common stock. The institution was for some time conducted with success; but, in the end, the manufacture generally in Reading was ruined by this very institution intended for its support; for the manufacturers, living rent free, and enjoying the loan of tools, and frequently even of money, undersold all competitors; but as these disappeared, it appears to have been found that the trade gradually disappeared too. The Oracle comprises a very extensive range of workshops and other buildings, surrounding a large court-yard, which is entered by an ancient gateway. Many of the rooms are now shut up, containing old looms, broken machinery, &c. A few persons occupy, rent free, some rooms for the weaving of sail-cloth, sacking, &c. A large room of the building is used as a school-room. The town-hall, forming the upper portion of St. John's Hospital, was rebuilt in 1785, and now forms a very noble room 100 feet long, 32 broad, and 24 high. Adjoining to it is a spacious council chamber, with portraits of Queen Elizabeth, Archbishop Laud, and other benefactors or natives of the town. The County Hospital was erected by subscription, and is supported by voluntary contributions. The County Gaol was built about 1793, on the site of the

Abbey: it contains a commodious house for the keeper, a room for the reception of the magistrates, a neat chapel, and an infirmary, numerous day-rooms, and airy yards for prisoners of each sex. There are also cells for the refractory, and for the purposes of solitary confinement. St. Giles's National School, erected in 1835, is a handsome structure in the Gothic style. Among the other public buildings may be mentioned the New Market-house, the Theatre, and the Baths.

Reading is lighted with gas by two companies, their several acts being obtained in 1825 and in 1836. A joint-stock company was formed in 1694, for the distribution of water from the Kennett by machinery. About the beginning of the present century the arrangements were greatly improved, when a lofty brick-tower was erected on the banks of the Kennett, and a large reservoir constructed at the upper end of Castle-street. A great number of wells have been opened in different parts of the town, which it is thought are supplied from the Thames rather than the Kennett, although the latter is so near. In 1785 an act was obtained for paving the town.

The clothing manufacture is said to have been introduced into Reading as early as the time of Edward I. Many traditions are preserved concerning a rich clothier of that period, one Thomas Cole. Except in connexion with the Oracle, the manufacture has been lost since the period of the Civil War. The trade of Reading has, however, for some

time been in a flourishing state. This may in a great measure be owing to the increased facilities for transport the town enjoys. The Kennett is now navigable for barges of 120 tons from the Thames through Reading to Newbury, where it joins the Kennett and Avon Canal, which is continued to Bath. A new wharf and dock were constructed in 1828. The principal articles of exportation are flour, malt, corn, seeds, oak-bark, hoops, wool, beer, and cheese. Of the flour it is said that upwards of 20,000 sacks are sent annually to the metropolis. There are iron foundries, some large breweries, several yards for boat-building, &c. The fairs of Reading occur on the 2nd of February, 1st of May, 25th of July, and 21st of September. The July fair for horses and the September for cheese are much noted. The quantity of cheese sold on these occasions is immense. In 1836 no less than 700 tons were pitched for sale, the value of which would be about 40,000*l*. The market-days are Wednesday and Saturday; the first chiefly for provisions; the last, for corn, is of considerable importance. The corn-market is held in the market-place, a convenient area, occupied on three sides by shops, and on the fourth by the church of St. Lawrence. The shops are kept in repair by the corporation, who take a toll of one pint from each sack of corn sold in the market.

Leland states that Henry VII., coming to Reading in 1486, noticed the decayed hospital of St. John, and inquired as to

its history of Abbot Thorn, who had alienated its revenues. On receiving the information sought, he desired it might again be converted to pious uses; when the abbot desired it might be made a grammar-school. The king gave an endowment of 10*l*.; and other donations appear to have been made to it, all traces of which are lost. By the charter of Elizabeth, the 10*l*. was charged upon the corporation, and that charge still remains the only endowment, with the exception of property given by Archbishop Laud, now amounting to about 40*l*. per annum, for the increase of the master's salary. His appointment belongs to the corporation. Two scholarships at St. John's College, Oxford, were annexed to the school by Sir Thomas White. The selection of candidates rests with the corporation; it has been the practice of late years to confine the advantages of this foundation to natives of Reading. The school is open to all boys, without regard to their birth-place; but none are admitted free. The school occupied for many years the lower part of St. John's Hospital, but the late Dr. Valpy, the distinguished scholar, built a new room at his own expense. A house for the master was purchased by subscription in 1764, which was enlarged and improved by Dr. Valpy. During that gentleman's government, plays were triennially performed by the scholars. The Blue-coat School was founded by R. Aldworth, Esq., in 1646, for the support, education, and apprenticeship of twenty boys. Various subsequent benefactions have

raised the number to forty-seven; and the whole income of the school exceeds 1000*l.* per annum. Three of the boys are selected by the landholders of the parish of Sonning, the others by the corporation. The school-house was built by the corporation in 1723. The master has a salary of 50*l.* a-year, 6*l.* for a servant, and board and residence for himself, wife, and servant. In St. Mary's parish there is a small school, called the Foundation School, endowed with property producing 11*l.* per annum, by Mr. J. Neale in 1714. Twenty-five very young children are here taught to read. The corporation lend a school-room rent-free. The girl's Green-school was established in 1779 for the support, education, and apprenticeship of the daughters of decayed resident tradesmen, or orphans unprovided for. It has property producing 132*l.* per annum, which is increased by annual subscriptions. The mistress's salary is 63*l.* There are twenty-one girls on the foundation. A premium of a guinea is given for good conduct during apprenticeship. In 1810, Edward Simeon, Esq., founded and endowed a Sunday-school with 2500*l.*, the interest from which is expended in the instruction of poor children, and in assisting to clothe the scholars every alternate year. There is also a school of industry, in which thirty-four girls are taught reading and plain-work, and are clothed. The other schools are the National, Lancasterian, and British and Foreign Schools, Sunday-schools in connexion with the establishment, and the various bodies of Dis-

senters; and there are several good boarding and day-schools.

There are two societies in Reading for the encouragement of literature and science—the Literary and Philosophical Institutions. The former, which was established about 1808, possesses a library, reading-room, and residence for the librarian, and the latter besides its library, a museum; and public lectures are given at certain periods. In 1840 an Antiquarian Society was formed at Reading called the Berkshire Ashmolean Society. A Mechanics' Institution was opened a few years ago, but did not succeed. Among the other societies of Reading may be mentioned the Philanthropic and the Loan Societies, each calculated, though in different ways, for the assistance of the poor. There is also a Horticultural Society.

The charities of Reading are so numerous that it is impossible to give even the briefest outline of them individually; some of the most interesting or important alone can be noticed. John Blagrave, in 1611, directed his heirs to pay 10*l.* yearly to the corporation for the purpose of giving twenty nobles (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) to one poor maiden servant about to be married, and who had been not less than five years in one place. The remainder of the money was to be appropriated to the paying for a sermon on the occasion, for ringers to ring the lucky maiden home, for gifts to poor scholars accompanying the procession, &c. Three girls are selected who throw dice, and the one who gets the highest number receives the prize. Archbishop

Laud established a similar charity, which every third year apports twelve poor maidens. In 1825 the amount to each amounted to 25*l*. The Rev. Mr. Bondry and James Richards, in 1775, established a like charity to that of John Blagrove's for one poor maiden, which gives to the winner about 30*l*. Lastly, from the gifts of Martin Annesley, Esq., the two unsuccessful candidates at Blagrove's, and those at Bondry and Richard's charities, receive severally 4*l*. and 3*l*. each, according as they stood nearest in the throw to the winner. These gambling charities can scarcely be recommended for imitation. Among the other charities are two Loan Funds. One of 150*l*., lent in sums of 50*l*., is part of a charity founded by John Kendrick; and another, divided into eleven loans of 50*l*. each, is part of the great charity founded by Sir Thomas White in Bristol, and twenty-four other cities or towns. These loans are lent without interest, on bond with three sureties, for ten years. They do not appear to be generally all at once in use. The different almshouses of Reading support about forty aged men and women. The other charities are generally for the apprenticeship of poor boys, gifts to the poor at stated intervals, and for other purposes of a like nature.

The property of the corporation in 1835 produced an income of 1137*l*. Part of it has been in the possession of the corporation from time immemorial, but the most considerable portion was the gift of Elizabeth. It was charged

with the building and repairing of nineteen bridges in the neighbourhood of Reading; and in 1830 no less than 2500*l*., were expended in this manner. The expenditure in 1831-2 amounted to 910*l*., the principal items of which were salaries of officers and police, payments connected with the public buildings of the town—the Town Hall, Compter, Bridewell, Market Place, Town bridges, &c. The poor-rates are large in proportion to the population. There are many small tenements, and the Commissioners of Corporation Inquiry were informed that in 1833 there were nearly 2000 houses in the borough bearing no portion of the local burdens, and which if fairly assessed would have produced about 3500*l*., to the poor-rates. The number of houses in the borough in 1831, including 226 unoccupied, was 3307; of these 1050 were rated at 10*l*. and upwards, on a rental of 30,800*l*.; 1200 houses were assessed to the poor-rates, and 2100 were excused on account of the alleged inability of the occupiers: the assessed taxes produced 8660*l*. The Reading union, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, was formed on the 1st of August, 1835, and comprises the borough and the adjoining hamlet of Whitley and Southcote tithing. For the three years preceding, the average expenditure for the relief and maintenance of the poor amounted to 8179*l*., while for the year ending 25th March, 1838, the amount was only 4549*l*.

Robert of Reading, one of the first monks, is said to have been the only

Englishman of his time, with the exception of Adelard of Bath, who was master of the Arabic language. Reading has not given birth to many eminent men. Archbishop Laud, born here in 1573, and beheaded 1644, was the son of a clothier in Broad-street. The names of the following are entitled to notice :—John Blagrove, a mathemati-

cian ; Joseph Blagrove, a writer on astrology ; Sir John Barnard, an alderman of London ; James Merrick, who translated the Psalms ; William Baker, a printer of some learning in the last century ; Sir Constantine Phipps, Lord Chancellor of Ireland ; and Dr. Phanuel Bacon, a dramatic writer.

CHAPTER VI.

READING TO WALLINGFORD.

THIS may be pursued as a continuation of the tour from Maidenhead to Henley and Reading, as the road also lies near the Thames. In the vicinity of this route we have the Great Western Railway, with the stations at Pangbourn, Goring in Oxfordshire, which county the line enters for a short distance, and, lastly, the Moulsoford station, in Berkshire, which is the one nearest Wallingford.

From Reading to Wallingford the distance, by the road, is fifteen miles. Passing through St. Mary's parish, Reading, the distance to PURLEY, the first village on the road, is about five miles. Purley Hall stands in a park by the road side. The mansion is in the inelegant style which prevailed at the commencement of the last century, and was built by Mr. Law, who was famous for his connexion with the South Sea scheme: Warren Hastings resided here during his memorable trial. Purley House is an elegant mansion from a design by Wyatt.

PANGBOURN is situated on the direct road, six miles from Reading, and near the banks of the Thames. A fine stream called the Pang, famous for its trout,

passes through the parish, to which it has doubtless given name. Bere Court in this parish was a summer residence of the Abbots of Reading, to whom it was given by Bingham, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1230. In the window of the hall are still preserved the arms of Hugh Faringdon, the last abbot. Bere Court is agreeably situated in a retired spot among hills, about a mile distant from the village. From a tower on the neighbouring height is a delightful view of the rich scenery with which this part of the county abounds. Since the Reformation Bere Court has passed with the manor of Pangbourn. Sir John Davis was the possessor of both in 1613, a person of some note during the reign of Elizabeth. He was patronised by the earl of Essex, and employed in some expeditions in which he gained considerable reputation. When Essex fell, Sir John was also so deeply implicated as to be sentenced to death; he was however ultimately pardoned. Camden speaks of him as an excellent mathematician; he was also deeply versed in the mysteries of astrology. His monument is in Pangbourn church. The river Thames here widens consider-

ably, and is spanned by a bridge built about 1792. *

There is a road from Pangbourn to the London and Bath road, which it joins about five miles west of Reading; also a road which joins the one from Abingdon to Newbury, about nine miles from the latter place. On the first of these roads is Tidmarsh, which has an interesting parish church with a hexagonal chancel. Sulham is about a mile east of Tidmarsh, and six miles from Reading.

Returning to the main road, we reach BASILDEN, about seven and a half miles from Reading, midway between Reading and Wallingford. It had once a weekly market, granted by Edward II. in 1309, and also a fair held at the festival of St. Barnabas. There were two churches at Basilden at the period of the Norman survey, and Lysons conjectures that one of them was at Upper Basilden, about two miles from the present parish church. The mansion in Basilden Park is one of the finest seats in the county. It has been recently purchased by James Morison, Esq. The park extends to a considerable distance on one side of the road, while on the other is seen the mazy windings of the river Thames, which here divides the county from Oxfordshire. The mansion is approached from the lodge gates by a fine drive which leads to a large lawn skirted by hills covered with beech and other trees. The estate of Basilden, in Reading hundred, formerly belonged to the family of Vane, and was purchased about the year 1766 of the Countess of

Sandwich and Madame de Salis, sisters to Charles, second Viscount Vane, by Francis Sykes, Esq., who erected the present mansion from the design of John Carr, of York. It is constructed entirely of stone, and consists of a large central building and two wings. The corridor in the centre of the building is in good taste, rising from a rustic basement, after the Italian style, and ornamented with four Ionic columns, supporting a pediment with a bold and prominent cornice. The wings are used as domestic offices, but the stables and coach-houses are at some distance from the house, and concealed by a plantation. The principal apartments are spacious and elegant; and in particular the Grand Saloon, which was painted by T. De Bruyn in imitation of bas-relief.

ASHAMPSTEAD is three and a half miles on the left of the main road, in a well wooded and pleasant part of the country. The manor of Hartridge in this parish is believed to have been the estate formerly held by the tenure of keeping a goss-hawk for the king. The parochial chapel is annexed to the vicarage of Basilden.

ALDWORTH is two and a half miles on the left of the direct road before reaching Streatly, in a very secluded situation. The manor of Aldworth belonged to Theodorick, the goldsmith, at the period when the Domesday survey was made; and to the De la Beche family in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Several ancient monuments in the parish church are supposed to be memorials

of this family; but of the old castle, which was their seat, not a vestige remains, and its site is called Beche Farm.

Returning to the main road at a distance of nine miles from Reading, and six from Wallingford, we come to STREATLEY, on the banks of the Thames, across which there is here a ferry to Whitchurch, in Oxfordshire. There was once a convent of the Dominican order in the village. Streatley is situated on the Roman road called Ickleton Street, or Ickleton Way, which, coming from Bedfordshire crossed the Thames by a ford. Another ancient road, called the Ridge Way, supposed to be Roman, enters the county from Wiltshire, and passes near Uffington, Wantage, East Hendred, Upton, and Blewberry to Streatley. BLEWBERRY is situated upon this road, five miles from Streatley. Blewberry church contains some ancient monuments of the family of Latton, who had a seat in the hamlet of Upton, in this parish, from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century. There are chapels of ease at Upton, and also at Aston Upthorpe, another hamlet of Blewberry. On Blewberry Plain are several tumuli. Blowburton Hill is a considerable eminence between Blewberry and Aston Tirrel on the right of the road. A little to the west of the former place is the source of a stream called Padsey Brook, on which there are two or three mills, and which falls into the Thames at Wallingford. The other places situated on the Port Way are noticed elsewhere.

MOULSFORD, not quite three miles from Wallingford, on the main road, is said by Lysons to be a hamlet of Cholsey parish, but in the Population Returns, and in the Ordnance Survey, it is noticed as a parish of itself. The church contains several monuments, one to William Gifford, Esq., who died in 1694, and was the first president of Fort St. George, in Africa. One of the stations of the Great Western Railway is at Moultsford.

The road next passes through Cholsey Field past Cholsey Mill, and within two miles of the village of CHOLSEY, which is situated about three miles south-west of Wallingford. At Cholsey, King Ethelred founded a monastery in 986 as an atonement for the murder of his brother Edward the Martyr; and it is believed to have been destroyed by the Danes, when they burnt Reading and committed other ravages in the county. Henry I. granted the manor to Reading Abbey, and the abbots had a seat here. The church once belonged to the abbey of Mount St. Michael, in Normandy.

Before entering Wallingford we pass through the small village of Winterbrooke in Cholsey parish, about a quarter of a mile from Wallingford. It contains about 100 inhabitants, and is connected with Wallingford by scattered houses.

WALLINGFORD, a parliamentary borough, returning one member, is a place of great antiquity, situated on the bank of the Thames, forty-six miles from London: it comprises four parishes. Lysons and other antiquarians suppose



[Wallingford and View on the Thames.]

that there was a town here in the time of the Romans, the name of which is lost, and they ascribe the origin of the present name, either to an ancient British word *guallen* or the Latin *vallum*, each signifying a fort or fortified position, and the ford over the river, thus making *Guallen Ford* or *Vallum Ford*. Wallingford was destroyed by the Danes in 1006, when they ravaged the county; but it appears to have been rebuilt in 1013, as it was then visited by Sweyn, king of Denmark. In the reign of Edward the Confessor it was a royal borough, containing 276 houses, paying a tax to the king. On the Norman invasion the Conqueror was invited to Wallingford by Wigod, a Saxon lord, at whose castle the Archbishop Stigand and many others appeared and submitted to William. The nuptials of Wigod's daughter with one of the Norman generals were celebrated at the same time. In 1067 the king directed a strong castle to be built at Wallingford, as a means of overawing the country. In the course of a century the castle, town, and honour of Wallingford, which had successively descended to Wigod's daughter and grand-daughter came into the possession of the crown. Henry II. assembled a general council of the bishops and barons at the castle, who swore allegiance to him, and at a later period King John met the discontented barons of the north at the same place. During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the castle was the scene of several interesting events. At one period it was

held by the Earl of Chester; next by the Earl of Cornwall; and Edward II. gave it to Piers Gaveston. Thus it passed from one great feudal lord to another, reverting occasionally to the crown at the pleasure of the sovereign. By the time that this stormy period was passing away, its strength had begun to decay; and there were no longer the same powerful motives for keeping it in repair. Leland, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, describes it as "sore yn ruine." Camden, who wrote somewhat later, says that "its size and magnificence used to amaze me when I came hither, a lad, from Oxford." Still, up to the period of the Civil War, it was considered one of the most important fortresses in the king's possession; the royal army marched here after the second battle of Newbury in 1644; and it did not fall into the hands of the parliamentary forces until two years afterwards. In 1652 orders were issued for the demolition of the castle, the inhabitants of the county having also petitioned for this object. So thoroughly was this work performed that scarcely a vestige of its former state and grandeur now remains.

An ancient college, consisting of a dean and prebendaries, existed at one period within the walls of the castle, founded, it is believed, by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, who died in 1300. After the surrender of the endowment in the reign of Henry VIII., it was purchased by the dean and canons of Christ Church, Oxford, who let the clerk's house, described by Leland as

"a fair lodging of tymbre," on condition of the tenants quitting the whole of it, except one chamber, at eight days' notice, in case of Oxford being visited by the plague or sickness. There was another ecclesiastical establishment at Wallingford, a convent of Benedictine monks, founded by one of the abbots of St. Albans in the reign of William the Conqueror; and at one period there were eleven churches in the borough.

A hospital for poor men and women existed in the thirteenth century. In 1687, Mr. William Aungear and his sister founded an alms-house for six poor widows; and the original small endowment has been increased by subsequent bequests.

It appears, from a document quoted by Lysons in the 'History of Berkshire,' that in the thirteenth century a native of Wallingford, guilty of any offence which rendered him liable to capital punishment, might have the option either of having his eyes put out, or being otherwise mutilated in his person, instead of being put to death. James I. granted the town its first charter of incorporation. Under the Municipal Corporations Reform Act the corporation consists of four aldermen and twelve councillors, and the corporate body is styled the "mayor, burgesses, and commonalty of the borough of Wallingford." The borough has enjoyed its parliamentary privileges since the reign of Edward I., and before the passing of the Reform Act the right of voting was vested by ancient charter in the inhabitants paying scot and lot.

The number of electors was about 300, but not more than 212 had polled at any election during the preceding thirty years. The Reform Act took away one of the members from Wallingford, and extended the boundaries of the parliamentary borough by taking in parishes and parts of parishes adjacent to the old boundaries, so that it now comprises treble the population of the old borough.

At the period of the Norman survey, the market, which had been held from time immemorial, was on the Saturday; afterwards the day was changed to Sunday; and in 1218 to Thursday. Tuesday and Friday are now the market-days; the first being of very little consequence, and the second a small corn market; and there are four annual fairs. The chief trade of the place is malting. A great plague in the reign of Edward III., (1327-1377) and the building of Culham and Burford bridges, near Abingdon, in 1415, by which the great road into Gloucestershire and South Wales was diverted from Wallingford, is believed to have proved highly injurious at the time to the prosperity of the town. Leland speaks of it as being much decayed; and in the reign of Mary (1553-1558) it is described in an inquisition, quoted by Lysons, as being then "in greater desolation than ever it was, every manner of way." Its present condition and appearance testify that it has recovered this state of depression. Soon after the middle of the last century the building of a bridge across the Thames at Shillingford opened the communication between Reading and

Oxford by Wallingford; and a new turnpike road was made from Wallingford through the vale of White Horse to Wantage. In 1795 an act was obtained for paving and lighting the town. In 1801 the population amounted only to 1744, but in 1831 it had increased to 2467. The town principally consists of two streets, and the boundary commissioners who visited it in 1831 state that "the general aspect of the place would indicate that it is in good condition. For its size it contains a considerable number of neat private dwellings; a few are of a superior character. The town is lighted with gas. In general terms Wallingford may be described as a neat country town respectably inhabited." In the old borough 212 out of 485 houses are of the annual value of 10*l.* and upwards. The Great Western Railway approaches within three miles of the town. The present bridge across the Thames was built in 1809. The former bridge was considered the oldest on the river, and consisted of nineteen arches and four draw-bridges, the whole 300 yards in length; but the structure was so much injured by a great flood that it was obliged to be taken down.

Wallingford now contains three churches: St. Mary's, a handsome edifice with an embattled tower and pinnacles, on the top of which is an armed knight on horseback, said to represent King Stephen; St. Leonard's, a very ancient edifice; and St. Peter's, built in 1769, to which a spire was afterwards added, by subscription, in 1777. There are places of worship for the Independents, the Society of Friends, the Baptists, and Wesleyan Methodists.

In 1659 Mr. Walter Bigg, an alderman of London, endowed a free-school with the sum of 10*l.* per annum; and in 1672 the Merchant Tailors' Company of London gave 32*l.* for the erection of a free-school, and 2*l.* 10*s.* a-year for the master. In 1833 there were eleven daily schools in the borough, the average attendance at which was 320; and several Sunday schools, attended by about 340 children.

Richard de Wallingford, abbot of St. Albans, eminent in his time for his mechanical genius; and John de Wallingford, the writer of a well-known 'Chronicle,' are believed to have been natives of Wallingford.

CHAPTER VII.

READING TO NEWBURY AND HUNGERFORD.

THE Great Western Railway, after passing Reading, makes a great bend to the north, leaving the south-western parts of Berkshire without the advantages which it affords to other parts of the county. The tourist must therefore have recourse to the old modes of travelling, and between Reading, Newbury and Hungerford, which route we now proceed to describe, he will find all the resources which an ancient and active traffic creates for the accommodation of travellers. Newbury is twelve miles from the Pangbourn station on the Great Western Railway, and fourteen miles from the Basingstoke station on the South Western Railway.

Coley, at the western extremity of Reading, is an ancient manor which belonged for many generations to the Vachells; and Coley House, their ancient seat, was the residence of Charles I. for a few days, during the Civil War.

The road passes by a place called World's End, and next Horn castle, after which, about three quarters of a mile from the main road, on the left, is TILEHURST, the parish church of which contains a costly monument to the memory of Sir Peter Vanlore, a rich merchant, who died in 1627, and

his lady. Lloyd, Bishop of Worcester, who died in 1717, was a native of this place. Calcot House is in the parish. Between Tilehurst and the road is an eminence called Cockney Hill; and to the west, half a mile from the main road, is Langley Hill. About two miles from Calcot Green is THEALE, a chapelry in this parish of Tilehurst: Theale gives its name to the hundred. The country is here well wooded, and on the left the Kennet takes its course through rich meadows. There is an episcopal chapel at Theale erected at the expense of Mrs. Sophia Sheppard. Pursuing our course along the main road we reach, within less than a mile from the village, a road to the Thames at Pangbourn, which passes through TIDMARSH, the parish church of which is noticeable as having an enriched Norman doorway, and for its peculiar form; the chancel terminating in the half of an hexagon. BURGHFIELD parish church contains an ancient monument with the figure of a crusader in wood. The bridge over the river Loddon is a very ancient structure.

ENGLEFIELD HOUSE, the seat of Richard Benyon de Beauvoir, Esq., is situated about six miles west of Reading, and forms a conspicuous object to the

north of the Bath Road. This manor was at a very early period possessed by the ancient family of Englefield, by whom it was held till the reign of Elizabeth, when it became forfeited to the crown, owing to the conviction of Sir J. Englefield, on a charge of aiding the plot to rescue Mary Queen of Scots from the hands of her rival. The act of attainder being passed, a grant of the manors was made to Sir Francis Walsingham, from whose family it passed, by marriage, into that of John, Marquess of Winchester, who built the present mansion after the demolition of Basing House in Wiltshire, which he had so nobly defended against the parliamentary forces in the time of Charles I. Upon the death of the marquess, his only surviving son, Lord Francis Paulet, took possession of the Englefield estate, and bequeathed it on his demise to an only daughter Anne, who married the Reverend Nathan Wrighte, a younger son of the Lord Keeper Wrighte. Upon the death of Nathan Wrighte, Esq., in 1789, Englefield devolved to the late Richard Benyon, Esq., son of Governor Benyon, by the widow of Powlett Wrighte, Esq., elder brother of the last-mentioned Nathan. The present proprietor of this seat, grandson of the governor, in 1822, took the additional name of De Beauvoir. The house is finely situated on a rising ground, with a large and thick wood at the back, "like a mantle about a coat of arms." In the north aisle of the chancel of the parish church are several monuments of the Englefield

family, and on the south aisle is a monument to the memory of John, Marquis of Winchester, the defender of Basing House, with an epitaph from the pen of Dryden.

Jack's Booth, a well-known place on the London and Bath Road, is nearly six miles and a half from Reading. On the left, at the distance of about one mile is—

SULHAMPSTEAD BANNISTER, the manor of which originally belonged to the family of Bannister. The river Kennet runs through the parish. SULHAMPSTEAD ABBOTS, or Abbas, also on the left, nearly two miles from the main road, is mentioned in old writings under the name of Suthampstead and Chilhampsted. The abbey of Reading had two manors in the parish. There is a small endowed school. Proceeding towards Newbury—

UFTON, or Ufton Nervets, is on the left, nearly 2 miles from the road. Here resided Arabella, wife of Francis Perkins, Esq., the lady celebrated by Pope in the Rape of the Lock, under the name of Belinda, and to whom, under her maiden name of Fermor, the poem was dedicated. There were two manors here at the period of the Conquest, one of which was called Ufton Nervets and the other Ufton Greyshale; and these were most probably the names of the two parishes of Ufton, which were consolidated in 1442. A few years ago the remains of the ancient church of Ufton Greyshale were visible.

STRATFIELD MORTIMER, is 3 miles S.S.E. of Upton, and near the verge of

the county. The manor was held by the family of Mortimer at the Conquest, and remained in their hands until the death of the Earl of March in 1425. Afterwards it came into the possession of the crown, and Queen Elizabeth granted it to Lord Hunsdon in 1564. In one of the church windows is a portrait of William of Wykeham. The heath is of considerable extent and stretches into Hampshire. It was enclosed in 1802, a reserve of one hundred acres being made to the poor for fuel, and the enclosed lands being subject to tithe.

Returning to the main road we reach the Hare-and-Hounds, a long established inn, a mile and a quarter from which is—

PADWORTH. The manor was held from an early period by the family of Courdray, by the terms of providing a sailor to manage the ropes of the Queen's vessel whenever she visited Normandy. The church, which is very small, is a curious and interesting specimen of enriched Norman architecture.

ALDERMASTON, about one and a half miles from the main road, is situated S. of the Kennet, on the border of Hampshire, at a distance of above twelve miles S.W. from Reading. In the church, among other monuments, is one of alabaster, with the effigies of Sir George Forster, who died in 1526, and his wife Elizabeth. Round the sides, under gothic canopies, are small figures of their eleven sons, in armour, and eight daughters with the angular head dresses of the day. There are three fairs held here, May 6, July 7, and October 11. Aldermaston House, the residence of W. Congreve, Esq., was

built in 1636, as appears by the inscription over the door-way, and owing to the very excellent restorations made within a comparatively recent period, the mansion appears nearly in its original state. The exterior is not remarkable, presenting simply a plain brick elevation with a bold cornice, and with the doors adorned with twisted columns; but the interior presents some peculiarly interesting features, particularly the staircase, which is unique in the richness of its decorations. The dining room is large and handsome, and the great drawing room above is very richly ornamented with carving and gilding: both rooms have ancient ponderous chimney-pieces, extending nearly to the ceilings. In most of the windows through the house are impaled the arms of the different possessors of the house. The rooms in the back look into an avenue in the park, which consists of nearly 800 acres of ground, and contains many venerable oaks, some of them above 20 feet round. Among the pictures are many family portraits, including one of the poet Congreve, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, a landscape by Gaspar Poussin, Queen Esther before Ahasuerus by Tintoretto, &c. There are entrenchments visible between Aldermaston Heath and Stratfield Mortimer windmill.

The main road next takes us to **MIDGHAM**, a hamlet in the parish of Thatcham, which has a chapel of ease, built in 1714, by John Hillersdon, Esq., lord of the manor. Passing over a tract called Midgham Marsh we reach—

THATCHAM, the most extensive parish

in the county, except Lambourn, containing, according to the Population Returns, 12,960 acres. From the Domesday survey, and other authentic records, it appears to have been at one period a borough town, though there is no account of its ever having sent members to Parliament. Its market was first held on Tuesday, but in the reign of Henry III. the day was changed to Thursday: it has long been discontinued. The population at present amounts to 4000. The church contains some altar tombs, but the figures on Judge Danvers' monument have been removed since Ashmole's time. Thatcham is on the river Kennet, and the Kennet and Avon canal passes near it. The country is here agreeably diversified; the hills on the right are well wooded; and on the left are the rich meadows on the Kennet. Thatcham is within three miles of Newbury, but before passing on to that place it may be convenient to notice some of the neighbouring villages.

WASING, on the left, about one and a half miles from the road, is reached by a bridge over the Emborne, called Sherbet bridge. Wasing house is a handsome mansion, forming a conspicuous object from the main road.

BRIMPTON is also on the left, and about the same distance from the road, passing by Brimpton mills. At the Conquest there was a church in each of the two manors which the parish comprised; and the Knights Templars, it is believed, had once a preceptory here. On Brimpton Common are several tumuli.

BEENHAM is on the right, rather more than a mile from the road. Stackhouse, the Biblical writer, was vicar of this parish, and is buried in the chancel of the parish church, where there is a monument to his memory.

WOOLHAMPTON, also on the right, about three quarters of a mile from the road, is a pleasant and agreeable village, situated beneath the range of hills which bounds the road on that side. The Kennet glides through the meadows on the left. The manor once belonged to the Knights hospitallers. The church was built by Richard de Herclond, rector of the parish, whose burial place is on the north side of the chancel. The fount is ancient and rather curious. After passing Thatcham, Crookham House is one mile and three quarters to the left. The manor of Crookham, which is in the parish of Thatcham, was granted by Edward II., to Piers de Gaveston, who was beheaded at Warwick, in 1312. From Thatcham to Newbury the distance is about four miles.

NEWBURY is seventeen miles from Reading, and fifty-six miles from London. It is on the river Kennet, at the point where the navigation of that river unites with the Kennet and Avon canal; and had in 1831 a population of 5959, or, including Sandleford priory, which is in the parish, 5977. The town is ancient, being supposed to have originated from the Roman station Spinæ, which name is still preserved in that of Speenhamland, a hamlet in the parish of Speen, and contiguous to the town of Newbury. As early as the time of William the

Conqueror it was called Newbir or Newbyrig, and under that name was granted by the Conqueror to Ernulph de Hesdin. The principal streets are broad and well paved, and the town is lighted with gas. The church is a plain stone building, erected in the reign of Henry VII. There are several large malhouses and corn-mills, and there were formerly some woollen manufactories of importance; but they have long since disappeared.

In the great council convened at Westminster in the reign of Edward III., concerning trade and manufactures, Newbury had three representatives.

The average annual export of flour, malt, and unmanufactured grain is estimated at 7000 tons. The corn-market is held on Thursday. The fairs are held five times in the year. That in October is a statute fair for hiring servants. The Kennet and Avon Canal passes through the town.

The police of the town was described in 1835 as insufficient, and considerable inconvenience was said to arise from the circumstance of the hamlet of Speenhamland forming part of the town without being subject to the jurisdiction of the corporate magistrates. Newbury is a corporate town: the earliest charter of incorporation extant is that of 28 Elizabeth; the charter under which the corporation acted previously to the Municipal Reform Act is dated in the first year of the reign of James II. The revenue of the corporation, derived chiefly from the manor of Newbury, is only 120*l*. Prior to 1818 the corporation derived a considerable income from a toll

upon all grain which passed through the town; but this was contested in the above year, and has not since been paid.

The population of the parish in 1831 was 5959. The parish is in the diocese of Salisbury. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the crown, and valued at 455*l*. per annum.

The 'corporation school,' as it is called, originated from a bequest of Mr. John Kendrick, in 1624, of the sum of 4000*l*., to be applied by the corporation in furnishing employment to the poor of Newbury. Part of the revenue thence arising was first appropriated to the education and clothing of twenty boys in 1706. The funds of this charity were augmented in 1715 by certain landed property named in the will of Mr. Richard Cowslade, the rental of which in 1819 amounted to 97*l*., and the number of boys clothed and educated was in consequence increased to 28. In 1790 there was a further bequest, by James Kimber, of funded property, yielding an annual dividend of 531*l*., which he directed should be employed in the education, clothing, and apprenticing of ten boys. The boys on these three foundations form what is called the Newbury Blue-coat School. They meet in a room adjoining the church, and are taught by the same master reading, writing, and arithmetic. It is to be regretted that so little good should have been effected with such ample means. In 1819, none of the boys had been apprenticed; the master, who had held his situation for many years, was complained of as being neglectful of his duties. The

annual expenditure on account of the charity had not exceeded 150*l.*, and the appropriation of the residue could not be satisfactorily accounted for in consequence of the funds of the charity not having been kept distinct from those of the corporation. In the returns relating to schools and education made to parliament, in pursuance of an address moved by the Earl of Kerry in 1833, no mention is made of this school. The other charities of Newbury, include several almshouses*

In the reign of Edward I., Newbury returned two members to parliament.

At what period it was disfranchised does not appear. It is here that the Easter quarter-session for the county is held. The vicinity of Newbury is remarkable for the battles fought there in 1643 and 1644, between Charles and the parliamentary forces.

Newbury is little more than two miles from the verge of the county. There are three roads leading from it into Hampshire, one to Andover, another to Whitechurch, and the third to Kingsclere. The second of these roads passes SANDLEFORD PRIORY, which is a little to the



[Newbury and Donnington Castle. From an Old Print.]

* See First Report of Charity Commissioners, p. 41.

left of the road, rather more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Newbury, in which parish it is situated. An Augustin Priory was founded here by Geoffry, Earl of Perch, and his wife, about the year 1200. It was forsaken in the reign of Edward IV. (1461-1483) in consequence of a dispute between the prior and the Bishop of Salisbury, and it was then annexed by King Edward to the dean and chapter of Windsor. In the reign of James I. there was a suit in chancery about the tithes, and Sandleford, consisting of only the priory house, was declared a separate parish, and the owner was to have always a pew in Newbury church, and to pay 8*l.* per annum to the rector in lieu of tithes. The old chapel at Sandleford, which contained the monument of a crusader, supposed to be the founder, was, from this time, suffered to fall into decay, and no remains of it now exist. The mansion called Sandleford Priory was built in the Gothic style for Mrs. Elizabeth Montague, widow of Edward Montague, grandson of the first Earl of Sandwich. There is a road from Newbury to Lambourn and the north-western parts of the county: this route is described at the end of the present chapter. p. 111.

We now return to the London and Bath road, which it is necessary to observe does not enter the town of Newbury, but passes through SPEENHAMLAND, which forms a sort of suburb of Newbury, though in the parish of Speen. Here was the Roman station *Spinæ*, already mentioned, and it was also one

of the principal scenes of action in the second battle of Newbury, fought in October, 1644, between the troops of Charles I. and those of the Parliament. The famous Bread Table issued in 1795, and called by paupers the Speenhamland Act of Parliament, originated at a meeting of the magistrates at the Pelican Inn. Benham Place, in this parish, erected in 1775, was the seat of the Margrave and Margravine of Anspach. It is of the Ionic order, and is situated on the slope between the Bath road and the river Kennet.

About one mile north-west from Newbury, on the main road, is SPEEN or Church Speen. A market was formerly held here by grant in 1218, to the Earl of Pembroke. In the church is an altar tomb with the effigy in armour of John Baptist de Castillon, a Piedmontese, to whom one of the two manors in the parish was granted in 1565. There is an effigy of his son's wife, who died in 1603, habited in a farthingale and flowered gown with a veil nearly to the feet. At the distance of one mile and a half to the left of the main road is ENBORNE, containing two ancient manors, in which the custom was formerly prevalent, that if the widow of a copyholder married again, or was guilty of incontinency, she forfeited the life interest in her late husband's copyhold, which could only be recovered by her riding into court upon a black ram repeating some dog-grel rhymes.

Passing New Inn, on the main road, HAMPSTEAD MARSHAL lies one mile to the left. In 1620 the manor came by

purchase into the family of Craven, one of whom, whose father had been Lord Mayor of London, was created a baron in 1626, and after the Restoration an Earl. A house which had been built in the reign of Elizabeth for a previous possessor of the manor was pulled down, and a new mansion was completed in 1665, which was burnt down in 1718. It was from a design by Sir Balthazer Gerbier, who died on a visit here in 1667, and is buried in the church.

The Half-way House is the next place on the main road after New Inn. About a mile hence on the left, on the banks of the Kennet, is—

KENTBURY, anciently Chenetberie and Kennetbury. It gives its name to the hundred of Kentbury Eagle, and had formerly a market and two fairs. One of the manors in this parish was given to the nuns of Ambresbury by Queen Elfrida on the first foundation of that establishment. The parish church contains monuments of ancient date of the old families who once had their seats in the neighbourhood. About two miles south of Kentbury Eagle is—

WEST WOODHAY, on the borders of Hampshire, seven miles south-west of Newbury, and about six south-east of Hungerford. It had formerly a market, granted in 1318. The old parish church was pulled down, and the brick building erected in its place contains nothing remarkable. Sir Benjamin Rudyerd, a poet and politician, in the time of the Commonwealth, was buried in the old church, which contained a monument to his memory.

ELCOT PARK in the Parish of Kentbury, is close to the main road. About one mile and a half to the left is—

AVINGTON, the parish church of which is an interesting specimen of Saxon architecture, containing a curious arch ornamented with grotesque heads and a zig-zag moulding. The fount is rudely sculptured with curious figures, and appears to be very ancient.

In the parish church of INKPEN, about three miles and a half S.S.E. of Kentbury, there is the monument of a crusader. This parish, with that of SHALBOURN, which lies in the south-west corner of Berkshire, between Hampshire and Wiltshire, will render our notice of the parishes south of the road between Newbury and Hungerford complete. Jethro Tull introduced his practice of husbandry at Prosperous Farm in this parish. It is curious that although drilling, which was first introduced by Tull, is practised pretty generally in the neighbourhood, it is not so now on Prosperous Farm. There is a monument in Inkpen parish church of Francis Choke, who died in 1561, with his effigy in armour, and a beard of extraordinary length. Near Shalbourn is Wrangdyke, said to be the boundary of the Saxon and West-Mercian kingdoms; and on Shalbourn Down, which is the eastern extremity of Salisbury Plain, there is a tumulus from which extensive views may be obtained. Lysons says that the rectory of Shalbourn, which had before belonged to the priory of Sherbourn, constituted a part of the

original endowment of St. George's church, Windsor.

Returning to the point of the main-road from which we diverged, and continuing our journey westward, we soon reach—

HUNGERFORD, eight or nine miles from Newbury, above twenty-five from Reading, and sixty-four or sixty-five from London. It is upon the river Kennet (which, however, is not navigable), and upon the Kennet and Avon Canal. This town bore in ancient times the name of *Ingleford Charnam* or (*Charnam*) *Street*, which Mr. Gough (in his *Additions to Camden*) thinks may be a corruption of the Ford of the Angles on Herman Street, the ancient Roman road. But the Messrs. Lysons doubt whether the name Ingleford applied to more than the site of the manor of Hungerford-Ingleford, which is in the parish; and observe that the name Hungerford as now spelt, occurs in a record as ancient as A.D. 1204. The name Charnam Street is still preserved by one of the avenues to the town, and by one of the tithings into which the parish is divided. The town consists chiefly of one long street, in the centre of which are the market house and shambles, with a room over them in which the town business is transacted. The church, which is in the western quarter of the town, was erected in 1814, in the place of an ancient structure, which appeared to have been built at different dates. In the former church were several memorials of the ancient family of the Hungerfords. The living

is a vicarage, in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Windsor, and in the peculiar jurisdiction of the dean of Salisbury; the net income of the vicarage is stated at 429*l.* in the *Ecclesiastical Revenues' Report*, 1835. Near the church is the free grammar-school. The Kennet is here divided into two streams, one of which passes through the town, the other close by it on the north side. The latter is crossed by a bridge at the entrance of the town from Newbury. There appears to be no manufacture in Hungerford of any importance. The market, which is on Wednesday, has been held from time immemorial, and is mentioned as an established market A.D. 1297. There are three fairs. The population of the whole parish, which contains 4450 acres, and extends into Wiltshire, was, in 1831, 2715; [but a considerable portion of this must be rural population. The town is governed by a constable chosen annually by the inhabitants: the other municipal officers are—bailiff, steward, town-clerk, twelve feoffees and burgesses, &c. Hungerford was the birth-place of Dr. Samuel Chandler, an eminent dissenting minister of the last century. There was formerly a hospital of St. John the Baptist in this town, but its site is not known.

The manor of Hungerford was several times in possession of the crown. In 1297 Edward I. granted it to the Earl of Lancaster, from whom it descended to John of Gaunt, who granted the inhabitants a fishery in the Kennet.

An ancient horn is still preserved which he presented at the same time. There is another horn of brass of more recent date which is blown annually at the Manor Court, to summon the tenants. Edward VI. granted the manor to the Duke of Somerset, and on his attainder it was granted to the townsmen of Hungerford, with the exception of the park. Thus, the chief constable is by virtue of his office lord of the manor.

Hungerford Park is situated south-east of the town. At the close of the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was granted to the Essex family, and here the earl built a mansion which was pulled down above forty years ago, and the present house built on its site.

Hungerford being partly in Wiltshire our route here terminates, being from Maidenhead to Hungerford thirty-eight miles.

NEWBURY to LAMBOURNE.

BOXFORD, on the river Lambourne, is situated a little to the right of the road from Newbury to Lambourne, about 4 miles from the former place. The manor belonged to the convent of Abingdon. About one mile and a quarter from Boxford, on the left, is Wickham, a considerable hamlet of the parish of Welford, and which has a chapel of ease, and a parsonage house.

WELFORD is on the main road about six miles from Newbury. The manor belonged to the Abbot and convent of Abingdon. Domesday Survey mentions

two churches at this place, and one at Weston, a hamlet of Welford. The present parish church is very interesting. It has a circular tower at the west end, with small round-headed windows, betokening a Saxon origin, and upon the tower, an elegant Gothic spire, which was added in later times. The chancel has considerable remains of early Gothic interlaced arches, resting on pillars. There are here three stone stalls, one higher than the others, separated by detached pillars, having plain bases, and capitals enriched with foliage. The ancient manor of Benham Level in this parish was held by the service of keeping a pack of dogs at the king's expense for his use. Passing Welford Park on the left, and through the hamlet of Weston before mentioned, we reach—

LITTLE or EAST SHEFFORD. Here are the remains of an ancient manor-house, built by one of the Fettiplace family, who married an heiress of the house of Besils. The arms of the latter are preserved on the stone-work of some of the windows. The original house appears to have been built about the time of Henry VIII. In the parish church there is, among other monuments, a handsome one, bearing a figure of an armed man, and a female, in alabaster, without inscriptions or arms.

GREAT or WEST SHEFFORD is also on the road a little nearer to Lambourn. Here King Charles I. was quartered on the 19th of November, 1644. The church, like that of Welford, has a circular tower at the west end, with small

round-headed windows, to which an octangular story has been added at a later period. In it are some remains of stained glass. Near the northern door is a niche richly decorated with pinnacles. There is an ancient font with rich scrolls of foliage, in the enriched Saxon style. About two miles farther on is—

EAST GARSTON, in the hundred of Lambourn, and about ten miles from Newbury. The manor was held by the service of finding a knight clad in plate armour, to serve for forty days in the king's army, at his own cost, whenever the king should be in the territory of Kidwelly in Wales, of which manor this was a member. Passing through Eastbury, which is in the parish of Lambourn, we reach the hamlet of Bockhampton, also in Lambourn parish. At Bockhampton a manor was held in grand serjeantry by the service of keeping a pack of harriers for the royal hunt at the king's charge. William Hobbeshort held an estate in this place by the disgraceful tenure of keeping six common women for the king, at the royal charge.

LAMBOURN, or CHIPPING LAMBOURN, stands upon the little river of that name which falls into the Kennet at Newbury. Lambourn is situated in a pleasant and open country, sixty-five miles from London, near the edge of the chalk downs, which cross the county. In the market-place is a tall plain pillar, with an ornamented capital, on an ascent of steps. The church is a handsome Gothic structure in the form of a cross, having two chantry chapels on the south

side, in one of which is a tomb, on which is the effigy of the founder, who died 1585, in copper, habited in a surcoat; and near the churchyard is a hospital for ten poor men, founded by some of the family of Isbury or Estbury. A new set of regulations was framed for this hospital in Queen Elizabeth's reign, when certain usages, considered superstitious, were reformed. This saved the hospital from being dissolved. When Messrs. Lysons wrote their history, they stated that the alms-men were accustomed to attend divine service every morning in one of the chantry chapels, kneeling round the tomb of their founder's father. The living is a vicarage in the gift of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, London, of the average net income of 104*l*. The market is of very ancient date, but has much declined of late years: it is held on Fridays. There are three fairs. Horse races are annually held on Lambourn Downs. The parish is very extensive, containing 14,880 acres, and comprising the whole of the hundred to which it gives its name: it is divided into one township (that of Chipping Lambourn) and three tithings. The population of the township of Chipping Lambourn in 1831 was 1166: that of the whole parish 2386. At Upper Lambourn, an adjacent hamlet, was formerly a free chapel, now destroyed. The manor of Lambourn was given by King Alfred to his wife Ealswith, and in the reign of Edward the Confessor, and at the period of the Domesday survey, it formed part of the royal demesnes.

In the chalk hills in the neighbourhood of Lambourn is the source of the river of that name. Many barrows are found in the neighbourhood of Lambourn, and one of particular note, on these chalk hills north of Lambourn, covered irregularly with large stones - three of the stones have a fourth laid on them in the manner of the British cromlechs. Mr. Wise inclines to think this a Danish monument, while Messrs. Lysons would assign it a British origin. By the country people it is called "Wayland Smith," and they have a tradition of an invisible smith residing

here, who would shoe a traveller's horse, if it was left here for a short time with a piece of money by way of payment. Scott has made use of this tradition in his novel of Kenilworth. Three miles north of Lambourn, on the Downs, is a field called Seven Barrow Field, but the barrows are more numerous than the name implies. There are also barrows at the eastern end of Lambourn Hatts Wood, three miles N. E. of Lambourn, and on the roads from Lambourn to Uffington, and to Kingston Lisle, in various parts.



[Wayland Smith's Cave.]

CHAPTER VIII.

WALLINGFORD TO WANTAGE.

The route between Wallingford and Wantage, and from Wantage to the western parts of the county, again brings the traveller in the vicinity of the line traversed by the Great Western Railway. Within three or four hours he may have left the crowded and busy haunts of the metropolis and be rambling on the most elevated hills of Berkshire in a district rendered interesting from the remains which it possesses of a remote antiquity,—for here are found monuments belonging successively to the ancient Britons and to the Romans, Saxons and Danes. The Steventon station affords the readiest access to this part of the country, and it is situated about one mile and a half north of the route described in the present chapter. When the traveller has proceeded this distance in a southern direction, he enters the Wallingford and Wantage road, at a point which is distant five miles from Wantage and eight from Wallingford in a direct line. The railway also intersects this line of road at East Hagbourne Marsh, three miles and a half nearer Wallingford, but there is no station. The Faringdon road station affords the most convenient access to the country west of Wantage.

On leaving Wallingford by the high road, and pursuing our route towards Wantage, a direct distance of thirteen miles, we first find, at the distance of about one mile and a half, the little village of SATWELL, where there is a parochial chapel dependent on the church of St. Leonard at Wallingford. At BRIGHTWELL, near Satwell, there was formerly a castle which in 1153 was delivered up to the duke of Normandy, afterwards Henry II., by king Stephen, in pursuance of the agreement concluded at Wallingford. At this period the castle was probably demolished. Its site is not known with any certainty, but it is probably that now occupied by the manor-farm which is surrounded by a moat. In the parish church there is a memorial to Thomas Goodwyn, author of a treatise on Roman and Jewish antiquities.

On the right of the road, about half a mile from Brightwell, is a barrow known by the name of Brightwell's Barrow; and about a mile from thence is Sino-dun hill, in the parish of WITTENHAM, near the banks of the Thames, where there is a large camp of an irregular form, surrounded by a deep trench. This is supposed to have been originally

a British work, but afterwards occupied as a camp by the Romans, whose coins have been frequently found here. About a mile further we find—

LITTLE WITTENHAM. The manor anciently belonged to the Abbot and convent of Abingdon. In the parish church is a costly alabaster monument, bearing the effigies, in armour, of Sir W. Dunch, who married a daughter of Sir Henry Cromwell, (an aunt of the great Protector,) and also the effigies of his lady. Edmund Dunch, their son, was made governor of Wallingford Castle by Cromwell: he was also made a baronet, and eventually a peer; but he was deprived of this last mentioned dignity at the Restoration.

LONG, or EAST WITTENHAM, is about two miles from the road. This was at one period called Earls Wittenham, probably from the then possessors of the manor, the Earls of Warwick.

Returning to the road, on the left, we find, about a mile off, **NORTH MORETON**, in which parish the nuns of Godstow had an estate. **SOUTH MORETON** lies in the same direction, about a mile further.

At **EAST HAGBOURN**, also on the left of the road, from which it is about one mile distant, the parliamentary army under the Earl of Essex was quartered on the 24th of May, 1644. The manor was given by Henry I. to the monastery of Cirencester, founded by him, whose abbot had probably an occasional residence here; and a park was mentioned in the grant of the manor after the Reformation to Sir Francis Knolles. There

was formerly a fair held here. The parish church is a handsome Gothic structure, the north aisle of which, it is recorded, was built by John Juke, who died in 1413. Near the church is a small taper spire, on an ascent of steps. At West Hagbourn, a hamlet of this parish, was formerly a chapel of ease. At Crosscot, or Costcot, another hamlet also of East Hagbourne, is a small cross; and there is another by the roadside between Crosscot and Hagbourn. At **DUDCOT**, a little to the right of the road, there is in the parish church a tomb of Sir Richard Blake, who died in 1709.

HARWELL is situated near to the spot where the road runs into the high road from Wantage to Reading and London, about six miles from the former place. The manor anciently belonged to Richard, Earl of Cornwall, and king of the Romans. A tablet in the church records a singular benefaction to the poor, made by Christopher Elderfield, an eminent divine and a native of this parish, who died in 1652. "He gave lands for the purpose of purchasing in the spring of every year two milch cows to be given to two of the poorest men in the parish of Harwell, (burthened with families,) for their sustentation." The impossibility of the poor procuring pasture in a neighbourhood where the land is chiefly arable, and we presume the impossibility of deciding who were the poorest men, have caused the trustees to depart from the strict letter of the directions: they now kill every winter, if the rents are sufficient, two cows or

oxen, and distribute the meat generally among the poor. There are almshouses for six poor widows, and various other charities, including one for the education of poor children, for whom a school-house was given by Mr. Eaton, the rector, in 1772.

EAST HENDRED is about four miles east of Wantage. This place was formerly one of the seats of the cloth manufacture. The stewardship of one of the manors in this parish is a nominal office, in the gift of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and is one of the places which may be given for the purpose of vacating a seat in the House of Commons. There is at East Hendred an ancient chapel, supposed to have been erected by the monks of Sheen, to whom the manor just referred to belonged: this chapel now forms two tenements.

WEST, or LITTLE HENDRED, is about one mile nearer Wantage. A manor in this parish was anciently held in grand serjeantry by the service of buying the king's ale. At East Ginge, about a mile farther to the left, is the source of a stream, which falls into the Thames near Monkey Island; and at the distance of about half a mile from East Ginge in the same direction, we come upon a branch of the old Ickleton-street.

Returning towards the road, we find, a little nearer Wantage, East Lockinge and Lockinge Park, the seat of Sir Henry W. Martin, Bart.; and then Ardington, which lies near the road side, about two miles from Wantage. The manor of Ardington was bestowed by Edward III. upon his favourite Alice

Ferrers, whose attainder, after Edward's death, caused the estate again to revert to the crown. Before reaching Wantage the road is called the Port Way, a name it bears from hence westward to the boundaries of the county.

WANTAGE, the birth place of Alfred the Great, anciently called Wanating, or Wanting, and which gives name to the hundred in which it is situated, lies on the borders of the vale of the White Horse, on a branch of the river Ocke, sixty miles, in a direct line west from London. The parish comprises the hamlets of Charlton Grove and West Lockinge, and contains 7530 English statute acres. Wantage has been supposed to have been a Roman station. Mr. Wise, the antiquarian, who visited the spot in 1738, stated the vallum was then plainly visible; and Roman coins have been found in an enclosure called Limborough. As a royal seat, Wantage was probably a place of some consequence in the Saxon times. The manor was bequeathed by Alfred to his wife Ealswith, daughter of Ethelred, Earl of Mercia. When the Norman survey was taken, it again formed a portion of the royal demesne. Richard I. gave it to Baldwin de Bethun, Earl of Albemarle, who gave it in frank-marriage to William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. Through his eldest daughter and co-heiress it passed to Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, who, about 1215, gave it, in reward for military services, to Pulk Fitzwarin, a Norman baron, in whose family it remained for several generations. The Bouchiers, Earls of Bath,

and the Wray family, afterwards possessed the manor by descent. Both the manor and the hundred were anciently held of the manor of Hampstead Marshall, in this county. The only historical event of any importance con-

nected with Wantage is that for which its name has been so celebrated—the birth of Alfred. We may here mention that in 1555 Cardinal Pole caused an enumeration of the number of inhabitants to be made, and the return was not ex-



[King Alfred.]

ceeding 1000. During the Civil War, in 1644, Charles I. and his army, after dismantling the fortifications of Reading, remained here for some days.

The Saxon palace in which Alfred was born Mr. Wiso conceives to have stood on the site of the Roman vallum

before mentioned. The place in question is an enclosure on the south side of the brook that runs through the town, called the High Garden. Its form is that of an oblong square, containing about six acres of ground. Between this place and the river were discovered

the remains of a building, called King Alfred's cellar, which was paved with brick, and appeared to have been a bath. Speed, on the authority of a list of religious houses attributed to Gervase of Canterbury, who lived in the reign of King John, mentions a priory of black nuns at a place called the Ham, in Berkshire. No other record of this establishment appears to exist. Its site is most probably occupied by Ham House in this parish.

The town is governed by a chief constable. Petty sessions for the hundred are held every Saturday, and manorial courts once a-year. The town is very irregularly built, and contains but few edifices of a superior character. Leland says, "There be two churches in this market towne in one church ye, but the one is but a chapelle." The chapel is an ancient building, which has been long used as a school. Its north door is of Norman architecture. The church is a spacious handsome cruciform structure, in the Gothic style, with a square embattled tower rising from the intersection. It was either in part or wholly built by the Fitzwarren family, whose arms are placed on the roof. There is an alabaster monument in the church, supposed to be that of Sir Fulk Fitzwarren, who was a knight of the garter. Lysons, however, thinks the monument may refer to Sir William Fitzwarren, also a knight of the garter, as "Sir Fulk is known to have been buried at Whittington." The church also contains several other interesting monuments. Captain Symond, who

visited the church in 1644, mentions the tomb of Richard Davy, a public executioner, who died in 1493, with the effigies, on a brass plate, of himself and wife, and a hatchet as the emblem of his office. The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Abingdon; the patrons are the dean and chapter of Windsor. There are places of worship for the Independents, and Wesleyan Methodists, and Particular Baptists. On the old market cross is the following inscription, "Pray for the good Earl of Bath, and for good master William Barnable, the builder hereof, 1580, and for William Lord Fitzwarren."

The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the manufacture of coarse cloth and twine, and in the flour and malt trade. A branch of the Wilts and Berks canal comes up to the town, by means of which coal is received, and flour, corn, and malt, sent to different parts of the country; particularly to Bath, Bristol, and London. Wantage is a market town by prescription: the market, chiefly for the sale of corn, is held on Saturday. There are four annual fairs, namely, on each of the first Saturdays in March and May for cattle and cheese; July 18, for cherries; and on October 18, a statute fair. A cheese fair is also held on the first Saturday in every month.

In 1597 an act of parliament passed for vesting the town lands of Wantage, given in the reigns of Henry VI. and Henry VII. for charitable uses, in twelve inhabitants, to be deemed a body corporate, and to use a common seal, under the names of the "Governors of

the town lands of Wantage." By this Act the revenues were directed to be appropriated to the relief of the poor, the repair of highways, and the support of a master to teach grammar. Other charities have been also vested in the governors, among them almshouses for thirteen poor people. The whole property now produces an income of 452*l*. The chief expenditure is for the relief of the poor, consisting of the support of the almshouses, money payments to a considerable number of poor people called out-pensioners, donations of bread weekly and yearly, and occasional donations of cloth, great coats, coals, &c. Among the other charities are the almshouses founded by Mr. Robert Styles, in 1680, for twelve poor persons, who receive 3*s*. 6*d*. each weekly, and during half the year an extra 2*s*. weekly from another charity.

The grammar school is now discontinued, for, in 1832, the master having but one scholar, and being in ill health, resigned. For some time after that period no application was made for admittance, and consequently the governors have made no new appointment, thinking the better course would be to increase the salaries of the master and mistress of the English schools. The school is conducted under the general superintendence of the governors. By their permission eight or nine boys are sent by the Baptist minister to the schools, the expense of their education being defrayed by a charity belonging to that sect. There are Sunday schools attached to the church, and to the dissenting chapels.

Continuing our route westward of Wantage, we have about half a mile on the right EAST CHALLOW, a hamlet in the parish of Letcombe Regis. The Berkshire and Wiltshire Canal passes through it. Near Challow House is a chapel of ease for the hamlet.

CHILDREY, also on the right, is but a short distance from the road, about three miles from Wantage. There are there some slight remains of an ancient manor house belonging to the manor of Rampanes. The church presents some remains of Saxon architecture, and contains various monuments. There are brass figures of William Fynderne and his lady inlaid with lead; the date is 1444. In the north transept is an altar tomb with the figure of a crusader supposed to be Sir Edmund Chelrey, under an ogee arch richly decorated. The windows are ornamented with stained glass. In the south transept was a chantry founded by W. Fettiplace. There are three stone stalls, of equal height, with plain trefoil arches, and an ancient leaden font divided into compartments, each one bearing the figure of an abbot. Sir Edward Pocock, the learned Orientalist who died in 1691, was buried here. On the left side of the road is Childrey Warren and the Punch Bowl.

WEST CHALLOW, a hamlet of Letcombe Regis, situated about a mile from Childrey, formerly belonged to the nuns of Ambresbury. There is here a chapel of ease.

SPARSHOLT lies a little to the right of the road about four miles from Wantage. The church is interesting. The doors

have circular arches with Saxon ornaments, and slender shafts in the early Gothic style on each side. There are three stone stalls of equal height with a piscina adjoining, uniform, and richly decorated with trefoils, crockets, &c. The stalls are divided by detached pillars with plain capitals and bases. In the chancel is an altar tomb ornamented with shields and tracery, and bearing the effigy of a crusader under an ogee arch richly decorated with trefoils and crockets. On the opposite side of the chancel is a similar monument, having however no effigy. Under the south window of the south transept are two altar tombs, bearing each the effigy of a lady carved in wood, with long robe, veil and wimple, and the pillow supported by angels. At the feet of one are two dogs, of the other a lioness. The sides of one of these tombs are ornamented with nine figures of armed knights in different attitudes under arches enriched with foliage. In the same part of the church is the mutilated figure of a knight, also carved in wood, resting on a stone slab on the floor: he is in fluted armour and surcoat, and has a lion at his feet. Kingston Lisle, a hamlet of Sparsholt, about a mile distant, has a chapel of ease. The manor was the property and seat of the noble family of De Lisle, one of whom obtained a licence from the king for enclosing a park here in 1336. Kingston Lisle House was formerly a seat of Lord Craven.

About a quarter of a mile from the road on the left, and about five miles from Wantage, is a curious stone called

the Blowing Stone. At the back of this stone grows an old elm tree: the stone itself is a species of red sandstone. It is about three feet high, three feet six inches broad, and two feet thick, but is rough and of rather irregular surface. It has several holes in it of various sizes. There are seven holes in the front, three at the top, a large irregular broken hollow at the north end (for it stands north and south), and one if not more holes at the back. If a person blows in at any one of three of the holes, an extremely loud noise is produced, something between a note upon a French horn and the bellowing of a calf, and this can be heard in a favourable state of weather at Faringdon Clump, a distance of about six miles; and a person standing at about a yard distant from either end of the stone while it is blown into will distinctly feel the ground shake. The holes in the stone are of various sizes, but those which if blown into produce the sound easily admit a person's finger. The hole most commonly used to produce the sound is at the top of the stone; and if a small stick, eighteen inches long, be pushed in at this hole it will come out at a hole at the back of the stone, about a foot below the top, and almost immediately below the hole blown into. It is evident that this is the place at which the air finds its exit, as after the stone has been blown into at the top for a considerable time this hole becomes wet. There seems, however, no doubt that there are chambers in the stone, as the irregular broken hollow at the north end of it has evi-

dently formed a part of another place, at which a similar sound might once have been produced. In the neighbourhood there exists a tradition that this stone was used for the purpose of giving an alarm on the approach of an enemy.

About a mile and a half further we find

UFFINGTON CASTLE; a large camp on the White Horse hill just above the village from which its name is derived. It is of an oval shape, about 700 feet in diameter from E. to W., and about 500 feet from N. to S. It is surrounded with a high inner vallum, and a small outer one. White Horse hill is 893 feet high, and the views from it are very extensive in every direction. The White Horse has been connected by Wise with the battle of *Æscesdun*, and it is undoubtedly a work either of Saxon original, or of still higher antiquity. It is the figure of a horse cut in the turf on the north-west face of the range of chalk downs which cross the county at a part where the declivity is at once lofty and steep. Mr. Wise is in raptures with the skill displayed in the work, and in the admirable choice of a situation where it is little exposed to injury or decay. More sober judges, however, describe it as a rude figure, about 374 feet in length. When the afternoon sun shines upon it, it may be seen at a considerable distance—ten, twelve, or even fifteen miles; and from its immense size forms a remarkable object. It has given name to the hill on which it is carved and to the vale above which that hill rises. The inhabitants of the

neighbourhood had an ancient custom of assembling ‘to scour the horse,’ *i. e.* to clear away the turf where it had encroached upon it. On such occasions a rural festival was held, and they were regaled by the lord of the manor; but it does not appear that they have observed this custom since 1780.

Just under the White Horse hill is a round eminence called Dragon hill which has been supposed to have been the tumulus of some British chief, but it is by no means certain that the mount is at all artificial. Woolston, a hamlet of Uffington, lies between the castle and the village, on the right of the road. We are now at the head of the vale of White Horse which extends from hence to Abingdon.

UFFINGTON is about seven miles from Wantage. The parish church is a handsome edifice in the form of a cross, and built in the earliest style of English architecture. The windows are lancet shaped with slender detached pillars. There are three stone stalls with a piscina adjoining in the interior, of unequal height, with pointed arches and pillars with plain capitals. The spire was destroyed by lightning about 1750. The river Ock rises in the neighbourhood from two or three small springs.

COMPTON BEAUCHAMP a little off the road, also on the right, is about seven miles from Wantage. In the church is an ancient stone seat of considerable length, with an arm at each end. There is also a piscina with the body detached from the wall. On the hill overlooking the village is Hardwell Camp, an ancient

earthwork of a square form, broken by the edge of the hill, and surrounded by a double vallum, except where the steepness of the ascent renders such defence unnecessary. Its dimensions are about 140 paces by 180. It is considered probable that from its form it was a Roman work: the coins of that people have been found about the spot.

ASHBURY is on the road, about nine miles from Wantage. The manor was given by King Edred to the monastery of Glastonbury. Ashdown Park, the seat of the Earl of Craven, is in this neighbourhood. Not far from hence is a circular camp close upon the edge of the county, called Alfred's Castle.

CHAPTER IX.

OXFORD TO ABINGDON AND NEWBURY.

THE Great Western Railway intersects this line of road at Steventon, where there is a station for passengers. Steventon is ten miles from Oxford, about fifteen from Newbury, and four from Abingdon, direct distance; it is the nearest station to Oxford on this railway. Moulsoford Station, also on the Great Western Railway, is about seven miles east of the route described in this chapter. A line drawn from the station in a direction due west would intersect the road about one mile north of East Ilsley, which town is sixteen miles direct distance from Oxford, and nine from Newbury.

Crossing the river Isis by Folly bridge, SOUTH HINKSEY is on the right of the road, about two miles from Oxford. This was formerly a hamlet of Cumnor, and was made a parish at the same time as North Hinksey. The road next passes through an extensive wood called Bagley wood, beyond which, on the left, near the banks of the Thames, is Kennington, a hamlet partly belonging to the parish of Sunningwell, and partly to that of Radley. It had formerly a chapel of ease, which many years ago fell down. Having passed through the wood, we find a little beyond it, lying

off the road on the right, the parish of SUNNINGWELL. In the church is the monument of Hannibal Baskerville, lord of the manor, who died in 1688, and some memorials of Bishop Fell's family.

Bayworth, a hamlet of Sunningwell, had formerly a chapel of ease much used for private marriages, and which since the important changes in the law made during last century has gone to decay.

RADLEY lies on the left of the road, within three miles of Abingdon. The manor was purchased from the abbot and convent of Abingdon by Geo. Stonhouse, Esq., one of the clerks of green cloth to Queen Elizabeth. His second son Sir George Stonhouse, distinguished himself in the royal cause during the civil war, and was in consequence obliged by the parliamentary sequestrators to pay a large sum as a composition for his estates. The manor afterwards passed to Captain Geo. Bowyer, created a baronet in 1794 for his services in the celebrated engagement with the French fleet, on the 1st of June in that year. In the parish church is a very handsome monument of Sir George Stonhouse, the first baronet, with his effigies in robes. Radley House stands in a large

park. Sigworth, once a considerable hamlet of this parish, is now depopulated. We next reach Abingdon, one of the principal towns in the county, and a place of great antiquity.

ABINGDON, fifty-six miles from London, and twenty-six from Reading, is pleasantly situated on the right bank of the Thames, just at the mouth of the Ock, and at the entrance into the Thames of the Wilts and Berks canal. Its population in 1831 was 5259. It returns one member to parliament. Some have carried back the origin of Abingdon to the time of the Britons. It received its name of Abban dun, or Abben don, the town of the abbey, from the removal hither of a monastery previously fixed at Bagley Wood in the neighbourhood. It was a place of considerable importance in the period of the Saxon Heptarchy; and Offa, King of Mercia, had a palace here. The abbey, which was founded in the twelfth century, flourished under the favour of successive princes; and its revenues, at the dissolution of religious houses, amounted to nearly 2000*l.* per annum. Henry I. was educated in it. The streets are spacious, diverging from the market-place, and are well paved and lighted; the supply of water is also good. The market-house is an elegant structure of freestone, and in it is a spacious hall for transacting public business. The July and October sessions and the summer assizes are held here. Abingdon returns one member to parliament. It has a separate jurisdiction, having obtained a charter of

incorporation in the reign of Philip and Mary, A.D. 1557. There are two handsome churches, those of St. Helen and St. Nicholas; and meeting-houses for the Baptists, Independents, Quakers, and Wesleyan Methodists. There is a free grammar-school well endowed, a national and a British school, and some other foundations for the purposes of education. There are also many almshouses, in the chief of which (Christ's Hospital) thirty-two poor women are supported. The trade of Abingdon consists of malting, hemp-dressing, and sack and sail cloth making: in the latter branch of manufacture there has been a considerable decline since the peace. The corn-market is large. Capacious wharfs and warehouses have been erected at the entry of the Wilts and Berks canal into the Thames.

At a short distance from Abingdon the road crosses the Berkshire and Wiltshire canal, where the latter is only about three quarters of a mile from the Thames. Passing through the hamlet of Sutton Wick, we next find DRAYTON, at a distance of between two and three miles from Abingdon. This was formerly a chapelry dependent on St. Helen's, Abingdon; but the vicars of that church have long ceased to officiate here, or to exercise their right of appointing a curate.

SUTTON COURTNEY lies about two miles to the left of Drayton. The manor at an early period belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. Abbot Rethunus gave it to Kenulf, King of the Mercians and West Saxons, in

exchange for the site of an ancient royal palace, situated near the convent, and where, to the great annoyance of its inmates, the king's hounds and hawks were kept. Henry II. gave the manor to Reginald Courtney, ancestor of the earls of Devonshire. On the attainder of Thomas, Earl of Courtney, for bearing arms at Towton Field against Edward IV., the manor was granted to Sir Walter Devereux. It was afterwards restored to the Courtneys, and again lost by them on the attainder of Henry Courtney, Marquis of Exeter. The church was given to the abbot and convent of Abingdon by William the Conqueror. It contains an ancient font, surrounded with Saxon arches and pillars, between which are foliage and flowers. The rectory house has the appearance of having been a monastic residence, and, it is said, was used by the monks of Abingdon as a place of retirement for their invalids. Some of the rooms of this building retain their ancient form, and several of the ancient windows. Appleford is a large hamlet of Sutton Courtney, about two miles still farther left from the road. There is here a chapel of ease and a cemetery: in the chapel are some monuments of the Justin family. Edmund Bradstock founded a school at Appleford for the education of twenty poor children.

MILTON lies but a short distance from the road, on the left, at a distance of nearly four miles from Abingdon. In the manor house is a chapel fitted up for the service of the Roman Catholic church; the windows are decorated

with stained glass. The free school in this parish was built and endowed by the Rev. G. Warner, the incumbent, at an expense of 2000*l*.

STEVENTON is situated about half a mile from the road, on the right. It had formerly an alien priory of Black Monks, a cell to the Abbey of Bec in Normandy, to which monastery the manor of Steventon had been given by Henry I. In consequence of the seizure of these foreign houses during the wars with France, the manor and the impropriate rectory, with the advowson of the vicarage, were sold by the monastery of Bec to Sir Hugh Calverly. Steventon is the nearest point to Oxford on the Great Western Railway, and is consequently an important station. The line was opened to Steventon in June, 1839.

Harwell on the left and East Hendred on the right are noticed in the route from Wallingford to Wantage p. 115-16; we pass on therefore towards Ilsley. On the way we find, on the left, in the parish of Chilton, Kate's Gore, where there were at one period large stables, built by William, Duke of Cumberland, for his race-horses, and near which the road crosses the Ickleton Street, having barrows in the vicinity of various parts of its course, both to the right and to the left. In this latter direction it runs through a large plain called Blewberry Plain.

About ten miles from Abingdon we find a road on the right which leads to West Ilsley, distant about one mile and a half. The learned Antonio de Dominis, archbishop of Spalatro, was

presented to the rectory by James I. There are breweries in this parish, famous for their beer.

EAST or MARKET ILSLEY (anciently Huldesley or Hildesley) is a small market town, eleven miles from Abingdon, nine from Newbury, and fifty-four from London through Reading. It is situated amidst the downs formed by that range of chalk hills which has been described as crossing the county: on these downs a great number of sheep are fed. Although East Ilsley is a very small place, of not more than 738 inhabitants (in 1831), its sheep-market, which commences on the Wednesday in Easter-week, and is held every alternate Wednesday till Whitsuntide, is one of the largest in this part of England. The sheep are purchased by the Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire farmers, and fattened for the London market. There is a market on Wednesday throughout the year, but the great sheep-market is for a limited season, as mentioned above: there are also two fairs. The sheep downs in the neighbourhood are very extensive. In the church is a single memorial, with the date 1606, of the ancient possessors of the manor, who took their name, Hildesley, from the town. The family has been long extinct.

COMPTON is about two miles from Ilsley. The manor of West Compton in this parish is the paramount manor of the hundred, and belonged formerly to the abbey of Wherwell in Hampshire. Catmere lies between two or three miles to the right of the road. This parish

had formerly a market on Mondays, granted by Edward I., and a fair. At the commencement of the present century the Messrs. Lysons stated in their 'History of Berkshire,' that it contained but one farm-house and a cottage; but in the census of 1831 the number of houses appears to have been thirteen, inhabited by seventeen families. The church was formerly a chapel to Farnborough. Between Catmere and Beedon is Stanmore, a hamlet of the latter parish.

BEEDON, formerly BUDON, within eight miles from Newbury. This was formerly one of the seats of the Lisle family. Alice de Lisle had the royal permission in 1336 to make a park. The church, which was formerly a chapel to Farnborough, has ancient narrow-pointed windows with slender pillars. Compton Castle is on the left.

PEASEMORE is situated on the right between one and two miles distant from the road. The manor was the property of Thomas, the poet Chaucer's son. William Lyford, a Puritan writer, was born here. The prior of Poghley had a manor in this parish, a part of which is still called Prior's side. The only noticeable inscription in the church is one to the memory of Mr. William Coward, lord of the manor, who died in 1739. This gentleman possessed an income of only 110*l.* a-year; yet out of it he managed to build, at his own expense, a tower to the parish church, to give a great bell and the communion plate, to maintain a hospitable table, and to be considered an eminently

charitable man to the poor. New Langley Hall, a little off the road on the left, is a chapel of ease; and between two and three miles farther in the same direction is Hampstead Norris, which has also been known by the names of Hampstead Cifrewast, Hampstead Ferrars, and Hampstead Norris, as the manor successively belonged to the families indicated by the names affixed.

YATTENDON, also on the left, is about five miles from the road, and about eight from Newbury. It had anciently a market, granted in 1258, with a fair; both have been long discontinued, but there is a fair still held on the 13th of October. In 1147 Sir John Norreys, master of the great wardrobe to Henry VI., and ancestor of Lord Norreys of Rycot, had a licence to embattle the manor house, and to impark 600 acres of land. The mansion here referred to was pulled down long ago, and a new house built on the site. The parish church was built by John Norreys, probably the Sir John before mentioned. The only remarkable monument is that of a Sir John Norreys, who died in 1597, discontented, it is said, at not having been better rewarded for his public services, which are stated in detail on the monument as follows,—

“In memory of Sir John Norreys, knight, the second son to Henry, the first Lord Norreys of Ricot, who in the 14th of Elizabeth, being sent ambassador into France, and managing his business with prudence and honour, was by reason thereof, and his father’s suffering for her mother’s sake, advanced to the

dignity of a peer of this realm. This Sir John Norreys, that valiant and expert soldier, so famous in his time for his valour and military knowledge, was first trained up in those exercises in the civil war of France, under Admiral Coligni; next in Ireland, under Walter Earl of Essex; then served in the Netherlands, under Matthias Archduke of Austria; after that under John Duke of Loreyne; next under Count William of Nassau, and in the 27th of Elizabeth, 12th of August, was by the queen constituted colonel-general of all the horse and foot, then to pass out of England for the relief of Antwerp, then besieged by the Spaniards; before the end of which month he had another commission from Count Maurice of Nassau, and the same year was empowered to treat with the states-general of the United Provinces for the entertaining those bands of the English foot, as by the queen’s instructions were appointed to serve in those parts. Several commissions he had likewise from Robert Earl of Leicester, after he was constituted general of the English auxiliaries in those provinces, viz., two in 28 Elizabeth, and one in 29 Elizabeth. In 30 Elizabeth, being then president of the council in the province of Munster in Ireland, he had a commission bearing date 11th of October, giving him authority to constitute such principal officers, as well by sea as land, as he should think fit for the withstanding all hostile attempts, and for the defence and protection of that realm. In 33 Elizabeth, he was constituted captain-general of those

English auxiliaries which were sent in aid of Henry IV. of France, against his rebellious subjects in Brittany; and having deported himself with great prudence and courage in all those eminent employments, to the no little honour of the English nation, as well as his own name, he departed this life at his house at Yattendon, July 3, 1597, and in the 68th year of his age."

Carte the historian also lies buried in the church. He wrote a great part of his History of England in the village. The date of his burial is 1754. About a mile and a half from Yattendon, and nearer to the road, is the small village of Frilsham. Oare, a hamlet of Chieveley, is within about two miles of the road. It has a chapel of ease. About a mile hence is Grimsbury Castle, not far from which is Marston House. A chapel was built at Marston by Sir Jeffrey Martell. Priors' Court, or Curage, now belongs to the dean and chapter of Westminster; Priors' Court House was at one period held under that church.

We now once more return into the road, just at the spot where we find the village of CHIEVELEY. There are three hamlets in this parish having chapels of ease. Oare, already mentioned; Leckhampstead, about two miles from Chieveley, on the right of the road, the manor of which was granted by Edward II. to his favourite Piers Gaveston; and Winterbourn, about the same distance from Chieveley, also on the right, but nearer to Newbury. North Heath is in this parish.

DONNINGTON CASTLE, in the parish of Shaw, is situated about a mile from Newbury, on an eminence thickly wooded, at the base of which runs the river Kennet. It is understood to have been erected by Sir Richard Abberbury, Richard II.'s guardian during his minority, and who was expelled from the court in 1388 by the barons for his adherence to the cause of that monarch. In 1398 Chaucer, the poet, retired here but two years before his death; the castle being, it is supposed, purchased about that time by his son Thomas, who had married a rich heiress. After Thomas Chaucer's death, the estate was settled upon his daughter Alice, through whom William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, the lady's third husband, obtained possession of it. This nobleman considerably enlarged the buildings of the castle, and made it his occasional residence. Upon the attainder of the duke, Henry VIII. granted the estate with the title of Duke of Suffolk, to Charles Brandon. Camden described the castle in his time as a small but neat structure, on the top of a woody hill commanding a pleasant prospect, and lighted by windows on every side. In the beginning of the Civil War the castle was garrisoned for the king, being esteemed a place of considerable importance as commanding the road from Newbury to Oxford. It was first attacked by the parliamentarians under Major-General Middleton in 1643, who, to a summons of a surrender, received a spirited reply from Captain John Boys, the king's officer.

The place was accordingly assaulted, but the besiegers were driven back with great loss. On the 29th September, 1644, Colonel Horton invested the place, and having raised a battery at the foot of the hill near Newbury, continued for twelve days so incessant a fire, that he reduced the castle almost to a heap of ruins; three of the towers and a part of the wall being knocked down. A second summons was now sent, but still in vain; and although the Earl of Manchester came to join in the siege, and the castle was again battered for two or three days, every effort to take the place failed, and ultimately the parliamentarians raised the siege. Captain Boys was knighted for his services on this occasion. After the second battle of Newbury, the same gallant officer secured the king's artillery under the walls, whilst the latter retired towards Oxford; upon which the castle was once more attacked, the Earl of Essex being the leader, but as fruitlessly as ever. In a few days, the king was allowed to re-victual the garrison without opposition. The only part of the castle now remaining is the entrance gateway, with its two towers, and a small portion of the walls. These ran nearly parallel to the cardinal points of the compass, with the principal entrance to the east. The western part of the building terminated in a semi-octagon shape. The walls were defended by round towers at the angles. The length of the eastern end, including the towers, was about eighty-five feet, and the extent, from east to

west, about 120 feet. The gateway is in good preservation, and the place for the portcullis is still visible. A staircase winds up the southern tower, the summit of which commands an exceedingly beautiful prospect of the Hampshire hills, and of the intervening country. Round the castle, occupying nearly the whole eminence, are the remains of the entrenchments thrown up in the Civil War, and the evident strength of which help to explain the successful defence of the castle. At the conclusion of the Civil War, the ruinous parts of the building were taken down and used in the building of a mansion at the bottom of the hill, called the Castle House.

The hospital of Donnington appears to have been founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, who, in the sixteenth year of Richard II.'s reign, obtained a licence to build an hospital for the support of poor persons, and endowed it with certain lands. One of the almsmen was to be placed over the others, and called "Minister of God of the Poor-house of Donnington." After the dissolution, the estate remained in the possession of the Crown until about 1570, when, on the petition of Charles Earl of Nottingham, it was restored to the hospital; which from that time was called "The hospital of Queen Elizabeth at Donnington, in time past begun to be founded by Sir Richard Abberbury, Knight; and by Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, perfected and consummated." The house it is supposed was rebuilt about the same period by the earl. It con-

tains twelve superior tenements for as many almsmen, a large room called the Hall, for common use, and apartments for the minister, all in excellent repair. The annual rental of the hospital is now 112*l.*, in addition to which its casual receipts from fines, &c., have averaged, for the years 1830 to 1836, 288*l.* The inmates altogether receive about 7*s.* a week each. There was here a house of Trinitarian or Maturine friars. The earliest notice of this establishment occurs in a deed connected with Sir Richard Abberbury, his letter bearing date, 17th of Richard II., wherein Sir Richard directed, that the almsmen should "every daye go to masse to a Chappel of Fryers near adjoining, and should say sixty Pater-nosters, and as many Ave-Marias," Henry White, the last prior, surrendered the house in 1539, when its net revenue, was 19*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.* The house called Donnington Priory now marks the site of this ancient establishment, of which there are yet some slight remains. The mansion called the Grove was built by Petit Andrews, Esq., the author of the "History of Great Britain considered with the Chronology of Europe," and greatly improved by W. Brummel, Esq., secretary to Lord North. It is delightfully situated at the foot of the hill on which stands the castle. The library is large and handsome, and there are some good paintings in the different rooms. The stream of the Lambourn here widens into a river,

and forms a fine piece of water in its progress through the grounds.

SHAW is on the left of the road, one mile from Newbury. The manor was possessed, in the time of Elizabeth, by Mr. Dolman, a rich clothier of Newbury, who, in 1581 completed the stately mansion now known as Shaw Place, and which is said to have greatly excited the envy of his neighbours: the following lines have been preserved as one of the popular expressions of this feeling—

"Lord have mercy upon us miserable sinners:

Thomas Dolman has built a new house,
And has turned away all his spinners."

Over the portico is this inscription: *Edentulus vescentium dentibus invidet et oculus caprearum talpa contemnit.*" In the second battle of Newbury the King's troops were posted here under the command of Lieut.-Col. Page, who being attacked by a large body of foot, repulsed them with great loss. A basket-full of cannon balls, thrown either during this battle of Newbury, or in the siege of Donnington Castle, and picked up from different parts of the grounds, is still preserved. In an old oak wainscot of a bow window is a small hole about the height of a man's head, which, according to tradition, was made by a bullet fired at the king whilst dressing at the window, and which very narrowly missed. The church presents some Saxon remains.

CHAPTER X.

OXFORD TO FARINGDON.

THE Great Western Railway does not intersect this road from Oxford to Faringdon, but passes for some distance in a line nearly parallel to it. A line drawn from the Steventon station to the nearest point of the road would intersect it between Fifield and Kingston Bagpuze, midway between Oxford and Faringdon. The Faringdon Road station is about six miles from the town of Faringdon.

The turnpike road enters the county at Botley, a tithing of Cumnor, situate near the Thames, about a mile from Oxford; and turning to the right, and proceeding for about two miles in a direction parallel to the course of the river, we find the decayed village of WITHAM. This is in the hundred of Hormer, and situated at the foot of a hill, on the summit of which are yet visible the remains of a desolated fortress, supposed to have been built by Kinewulf, King of the West Saxons, during his wars with Offa, King of the Mercians. It is understood to have fallen into the possession of the latter, and made by him a place of residence. In ancient times there was a nunnery at Witham, founded originally at Abingdon, by the sister of King Ceadwall. It was deserted by the nuns

in consequence of the erection of the castle, and never again inhabited by them. The manor-house was built by one of the Harcourt family. It is a very old stone structure, with an embattled tower, surmounted by two octangular turrets, and the whole surrounded by a moat. The hall remains nearly in its original state. In the wall of the parish church are brass figures of the original possessors of the manor—the Wyghtham family: there was also at one period a memorial of Edward Purcell, brother of the great musician. The battle through which Offa obtained possession of the castle was fought, according to tradition, at a place called Sandfield, in the neighbourhood where Hearne, in his 'Liber Niger,' says armour swords, and human bones have been found. Sackworth, in the vicinity of Witham, was formerly a large town, abounding, says Mr. Warton, in his 'History of Kiddington,' with inns for the reception of pilgrims. This place has fallen into complete insignificance. Some remains of the original buildings are, it is said, yet visible on the banks of the river, including the fragments of a bridge which crossed the stream to Binsey. Returning to Botley, we find,

at a distance of about a mile from the high road on the left—

NORTH HINKSEY, which was formerly a hamlet of Cumnor; but Montague, second Earl of Abingdon, endowed the chapel with vicarial tithes, and made it a parish. The manor formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Abingdon. The church has but one door-way, which is of Saxon workmanship. Within it is a memorial of Thomas Willis, father to the celebrated Dr. Willis, and ancestor of Browne Willis, who died in the royal cause at the siege of Oxford. An inscription on the monument of W. Finmore, fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, who died in 1646, begins thus: "Reader, look to thy feet; honest and loyal men are sleeping under them." There is a cross in the churchyard. Again returning to the high road, we find

CUMNER, or Cumnor, about three miles nearly west of Oxford, and situated on the brow of a hill, commanding a very extensive prospect over the counties of Oxford and Gloucester. The manor belonged to the abbots of Abingdon, who had a house here for retirement in case of the plague, sickness, &c., prevailing at Abingdon. After the Reformation, this house was granted to the last abbot for life, and on his death came into possession of Anthony Forster, whose epitaph in Cumnor church speaks highly of him as being amiable and accomplished. But in Ashmole's 'Antiquities of Berkshire' he is represented as one of the parties to the murder of the first Countess of Leicester, who was secretly despatched while staying at

Cumnor by the order of her husband, who was then aspiring to the hand of Queen Elizabeth. The following extract from Ashmole details the principal circumstances of this melancholy story:—

"Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, a very goodly personage, and singularly well featured, being a great favourite to Queen Elizabeth, it was thought, and commonly reported, that had he been a bachelor, or widower, the queen would have made him her husband: to this end, to free himself of all obstacles, he commands his wife, or perhaps with fair flattering entreaties, desires her to repose herself here at his servant Anthony Forster's house, who then lived at the aforesaid manor-house (Cumner-place); and also prescribed to Sir Richard Varney, (a prompter to this design,) at his coming hither, that he should first attempt to poison her, and if that did not take effect, then by any other way whatsoever, to despatch her. This, it seems, was proved by the report of Dr. Walter Bayly, sometime Fellow of New College, then living in Oxford, and Professor of Physic in that University, who, because he would not consent to take away her life by poison, the earl endeavoured to displace him from the court. This man, it seems, reported for most certain that there was a practice in Cumnor among the conspirators to have poisoned this poor innocent lady, a little before she was killed, which was attempted after this manner:—They seeing the good lady sad and heavy, (as one that well knew by her other handling that her death was not far off,) began to persuade

her that her present disease was abundance of melancholy, and other humours, &c. And therefore would needs counsel her to take some potion, which she absolutely refusing to do, as still suspecting the worst: whereupon they sent a messenger on a day (unawares to her) for Dr. Bayly, and entreated him to persuade her to take some little potion by his direction, and they would get the same at Oxford, meaning to have added something of their own for her comfort, as the doctor, upon just cause and consideration, did suspect, seeing their great importunity, and the small need the lady had of physic; and therefore he peremptorily denied their request, misdoubting (as he afterwards reported) lest if they had poisoned her under the name of his potion, he might have been hanged for a colour of their sin; and the doctor remained still well assured, that this way taking no effect, she would not long escape their violence, which afterwards happened thus:—For Sir Richard Varney aforesaid, (the chief projector in this design,) who by the earl's order remained that day of death alone with her, with one man only, and Forster, who had that day forcibly sent away all her servants from her to Abingdon market, about three miles distant from this place, they, I say, whether first stifling her, or else strangling her, afterwards flung her down a pair of stair and broke her neck, using much violence upon her; but yet, however, though it was vulgarly reported, that she by chance fell down stairs, but yet without hurting her hood that was upon her head.

Yet the inhabitants will tell you there, that she was conveyed from her usual chamber where she lay to another, where the bed's head of the chamber stood close to a privy postern door, where they, in the night came and stifled her in her bed, bruised her head very much, broke her neck, and at length flung her down stairs, thereby believing the world would have thought it a mischance, and so have blinded their villany. But, behold the mercy and justice of God in revenging and discovering this lady's murder; for one of the persons that was a coadjutor in this murder was afterwards taken for a felony in the marches of Wales, and offering to publish the manner of the aforesaid murder, was privately made away with in prison by the earl's appointment. And Sir Richard Varney, the other, dying about the same time in London, cried miserably, and blasphemed God, and said to a person of note (who has related the same to others since) not long before his death, that all the devils in hell did tear him in pieces. Forster, likewise, after this fact, being a man formerly addicted to hospitality, company, mirth, and music, was afterwards observed to forsake all this, and being affected with much melancholy (some say with madness) pined and drooped away. The wife, too, of Bald Butler, kinsman to the earl, gave out the whole fact a little before her death. Neither are the following passages to be forgotten:—That as soon as ever she was murdered, they made great haste to bury her before the coroner had given

in his inquest, (which the earl himself condemned as not done advisedly,) which her father Sir John Robertsett (as I suppose), hearing of, came with all speed hither, caused her corpse to be taken up, the coroner to sit upon her, and further inquiry to be made concerning this business to the full; but it was generally thought that the earl stopped his mouth, and made up the business betwixt them; and the good earl, to make plain to the world the great love he bore to her while alive,—what a grief the loss of so virtuous a lady was to his tender heart,—caused (though the thing by these and other means was beaten into the heads of the principal men of the University of Oxford) her body to be re-buried in St. Mary's Church in Oxford, with great pomp and solemnity. It is remarkable, when Dr. Babington, the earl's chaplain, did preach the funeral sermon, he tript once or twice in his speech, by recommending to their memories that virtuous lady so pitifully *murdered* instead of saying pitifully slain."

It is needless to state that Sir Walter Scott's novel of 'Kenilworth' is founded upon the above circumstantial statements of Ashmole; but he tells us that his first acquaintance with the history was through the medium of Mickles' ballad about Cumnor, which he read when a youth. This piece has not found its way into many collections of popular poetry, and as it possesses a local interest, while it will also be new to some readers, we therefore give it with the orthography modernised:—

CUMNOR HALL.

The dews of summer night did fall;
The moon, sweet regent of the sky,
Silver'd the walls of Cumnor Hall,
And many an oak that grew thereby.

Now nought was heard beneath the skies
The sounds of busy life were still,
Save an unhappy lady's sighs,
That issued from that lonely pile.

"Leicester," she cried, "is this thy love
That thou so oft hast sworn to me,
To leave me in this lonely grove;
Immured in shameful privy?"

"No more thou com'st with lover's speed,
Thy once beloved bride to see;
But be she alive, or be she dead,
I fear, stern Earl, 's the same to thee.

"Not so the usage I received
When happy in my father's hall;
No faithless husband then me grieved,
No chilling fears did me appal.

"I rose up with the cheerful morn,
No lark more blithe, no flower more gay;
And like the bird that haunts the thorn,
So merrily sung the livelong day.

"If that my beauty is but small,
Among court ladies all despised,
Why didst thou rend it from that hall,
Where, scornful Earl, it well was prized:

"And when you first to me made suit,
How fair I was you oft would say!
And, proud of conquest, pluck'd the fruit,
Then left the blossom to decay.

"Yes! now neglected and despised,
The rose is pale, the lily's dead;
But he that once their charms so prized
Is sure the cause those charms are fled.

"For know, when sick'ning grief doth prey,
And tender love' repaid with scorn,
The sweetest beauty will decay,—
What floweret can endure the storm?"

“ At court, I’m told, is beauty’s throne,
Where every lady’s passing rare,
That Eastern flowers, that shame the sun,
Are not so glowing, not so fair.

“ Then, Earl, why didst thou leave the beds
Where roses and where lilies vie,
To seek a primrose, whose pale shades
Must sicken when those gauds are by ?

“ ’Mong rural beauties I was one,
Among the fields wild flowers are fair;
Some country swain might me have won,
And thought my beauty passing rare.

“ But, Leicester, (or I much am wrong,)
Or ’tis not beauty lures thy vows;
Rather ambition’s gilded crown
Makes thee forget thy humble spouse.

“ Then, Leicester, why, again I plead,
(The injured surely may repine,)—
Why didst thou wed a country maid,
When some fair princess might be thine ?

“ Why didst thou praise my humble charms,
And, oh ! then leave them to decay ?
Why didst thou win me to thy arms,
Then leave to mourn the livelong day ?

“ The village maidens of the plain
Salute me lowly as they go;
Envious they mark my silken train,
Nor think a Countess can have woe.

“ The simple nymphs ! they little know
How far more happy’s their estate ;
To smile for joy—than sigh for woe—
To be content—than to be great.

“ How far less blest am I than them !
Daily to pine and waste with care !
Like the poor plant, that, from its stem
Divided, feels the chilling air.

“ Nor, cruel Earl, can I enjoy
The humble charms of solitude ;
Your minions proud my peace destroy,
By sullen frowns or pratings rude.

“ Last night, as sad I chanced to stray,
The village death-bell smote my ear ;
They wink’d aside, and seemed to say,
‘ Countess, prepare, thy end is near !’

“ And now, while happy peasants sleep,
Here I sit lonely and forlorn ;
No one to soothe me as I weep,
Save Philomel on yonder thorn.

“ My spirits flag—my hopes decay—
Still that dread death-bell smites my ear ;
And many a boding seems to say,
‘ Countess, prepare, thy end is near !’ ”

Thus sore and sad that lady grieved,
In Cumnor Hall, so lone and drear ;
And many a heartfelt sigh she heaved,
And let fall many a bitter tear.

And ere the dawn of day appeared,
In Cumnor Hall, so lone and drear,
Full many a piercing scream was heard,
And many a cry of mortal fear.

The death-bell thrice was heard to ring,—
An ærial voice was heard to call,—
And thrice the raven flapp’d its wing
Around the towers of Cumnor Hall.

The mastiff howl’d at village door,
The oaks were shattered on the green ;
Woe was the hour—for never more
That hapless Countess e’er was seen !

And in that manor now no more
Is cheerful feast and sprightly ball ;
For ever since that dreary hour
Have spirits haunted Cumnor Hall.

The village maids, with fearful glance,
Avoid the ancient moss-grown wall ;
Nor ever lead the merry dance
Among the groves of Cumnor Hall.

Full many a traveller oft hath sigh’d,
And pensive wept the Countess’ fall,
As wand’ring onwards they’ve espied
The haunted towers of Cumnor Hall.

The ancient structure consisted of a quadrangle of about seventy-two feet in length and fifty in breadth. In a field adjoining the churchyard are still visible some remains of Cumnor Place ; but in 1810 most of the ruins, which were in a dangerous state, were pulled down.

The west door of the parish church of Cumnor is in the Saxon style. In the interior are two ancient tombs, supposed to be of abbots of Abingdon, and a monument to the Anthony Forster before mentioned. In different parts of the parish are the remains of crosses. The parishioners who pay vicarial tithes, claim a custom of being entertained at the vicarage on the afternoon of Christmas Day with beer, bread, and cheese. About two miles from Cumnor, lying a little off the road to Abingdon, is Wooton, formerly a hamlet of Cumnor, but which was made a parish by the Earl of Abingdon in the early part of the last century. About a mile and a half north of Cumnor is a ferry across the Isis, to Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire.

BESILSLEGH is about two miles from Cumnor on the high road to Faringdon. Here resided Wm. Lenthal, the Speaker of the Long Parliament. There was also formerly a manor-house of stone in this place, wherein was kept the famous picture of Sir Thomas More's family. About a mile off, on the right of the road, is APPLETON, which is in the hundred of Ock, and where there is a rare specimen of a very ancient mansion.

In the parish church is a handsome monument of Sir John Fettiplace, who died in 1593, with his effigies in armour; and the tomb of John Goodryngton, with a figure in brass of a shrouded skeleton. At Finteynes, in this parish, was formerly a large mansion, moated round. Continuing our route towards

Faringdon, we find Tubney House and TUBNEY, which lies on the high road from Faringdon to Abingdon, about four miles from the latter place. The church of Tubney has been long since destroyed, and on the induction of a new rector, divine service is performed in the open air. Within the manor are some extensive woods. About half a mile farther on, we reach

FYFIELD, formerly Fyfhide. A chantry or hospital was founded here in 1442, pursuant to the will of Sir John Golafre, whose monument is in the north aisle of the church. His effigy in armour lies upon an open altar-tomb, having beneath the figure of a shrouded skeleton. On the north side of the chancel is an altar-tomb, from which the brass plates have been removed, erected in memory of Lady Gordon; it stands under an obtuse arch with a roof of rich tracery, blue and gold; over the arch is a cornice of gilt foliage. About a mile distant from Fyfield, also on the high road, is

KINGSTON BAGPUZE, where there is a small but neat church, erected about the beginning of the present century, and a manor-house, also modern. At Newbridge, in this parish, which derives its name from the bridge there thrown over the Thames, the parliamentary army was repulsed by the king's whilst attempting to cross, on the 27th of May, 1644.

LONGWORTH lies at a distance of nearly two miles from the high road, on the right. The manor was purchased early in the seventeenth century by Sir Henry Marten, father of the Henry

Marten who so distinguished himself in the Civil War. There are memorials of the family in the church. Bishop Fell was born here in 1625. In an insulated part of this parish, which lies on the left of the high road, is an ancient entrenchment called Cherbury Camp, standing, according to tradition, on the site of a palace which belonged

to Canute. The camp is in shape between an oval and a circle, and double ditched; its longest diameter is 310 paces. Charney Basset is a hamlet, though a considerable one, of this parish, and lies also to the left of the high road, at a distance of about two miles. There is here a chapel of ease of Saxon architecture. The manor



[The Pusey Horn.]

was originally in the possession of the abbot and convent of Abingdon.

HINTON WALRIDGE, about one mile and a quarter on the right of the road, and about six miles from Faringdon, was formerly a market town. There are here traces of another ancient camp. About a mile from Hinton Walridge is a ferry across the Isis to Duxford, in Oxfordshire.

PUSEY, in the hundred of Ganfield, lies about a mile distant from the road on the left. The manor is said to have been granted to the family by King Canute, and the well-known horn is still preserved, by which the grant, it is said, was originally made. According to the description given of it by Gough, it is the horn of an ox, of a dark-brown tortoise-

shell colour, mounted at each end, and about the middle, with silver rings; the stopper is shaped like a dog's head. The middle ring has two small feet affixed to it, and bears the following inscription: "I, Kyng Knoode, geve William Pewse thys horne to holde by thy londe." The characters are said to be of a much later date than Canute's time, and consequently doubt has been thrown upon the genuineness of the horn. According to tradition, the horn and the land were originally given by Canute to an officer in his army as a reward for his vigilance in discovering and informing him of an ambuscade formed by the Saxons to intercept him. In the reign of Edward I., Alice Paternoster held lands in Pusey by the tenure of saying

a paternoster five times a-day for the souls of the king's ancestors; and it appears that Richard Paternoster, on succeeding to an estate (probably the same) in this parish, instead of paying a sum of money as a relief, said the Lord's Prayer thrice before the barons of the Exchequer, as John his brother had done before him. The church contains some ancient monuments.

Four miles from Faringdon we find **BUCKLAND**, lying a little to the right of the road. Thomas, son of the poet Chaucer, possessed this manor in 1436. Buckland House was built by Sir Robert Throckmorton, bart., in 1757. Several of the principal rooms are very handsome. In the dining and drawing-rooms are some fine pictures; and the library has a ceiling painted by Cipriani, which is much admired. The grounds are beautifully laid out. At Tadpole, about two miles from Buckland House, is a bridge over the Isis, leading to Bampton, in Oxfordshire. Carswell House stands in the parish of Buckland.

On the left of the road we have been pursuing, about four miles from Faringdon, on the road from that place to Wantage, is **STANFORD IN THE VALE**, so called from its situation in the vale of the White Horse, of which its handsome Gothic church and tower form a distinguished feature. There was formerly a market here, but it has been long discontinued. A fair was also granted with the market in 1236 by the charter of Henry III. A mile and a half nearer Faringdon, we find, on the left of the road we have last mentioned,

SHILLINGFORD, where there is an ancient manor-house, formerly called Shillingford Castle. The parish church has a nave with ancient semicircular arches, and contains various monuments.

FARINGDON is pleasantly situated on an eminence, thirty-six miles north-west by west from Reading, and sixty-nine miles and a half west by north from London. It is governed by a bailiff and inferior officers. The market-day is Thursday. There are three annual fairs, viz., on Old Candlemas Day, Whitsun Tuesday, and 29th October, besides a statute fair on the 18th October for hiring servants. The Saxon kings had a palace at Faringdon, wherein Edward the Elder died in 925; and a castle was built here during the wars in the reign of Stephen, by the Earl of Gloucester, or his son, but was totally destroyed a few years after by Stephen. In 1202 this king founded at Faringdon a priory of Cistercian monks subject to the abbey of Beaulieu, in Hampshire, and here, according to a manuscript in the Bodleian Library, King Henry III., his queen, and Prince Edward passed a night, being entertained at the cost of the Abbot of Beaulieu. The expense of the king's entertainment amounted to 100*s.* 6*d.*, the queen's to 75*s.*, and Prince Edward's to 50*s.* 6*d.* This priory, like the castle above-mentioned, has long since been entirely ruined, and no vestige is left of either of them. Faringdon House was, during the Civil War, made a garrison, and Sir Marmaduke Rawdon appointed its governor, whose memory is

commemorated by an inscription in the parish church. Cromwell himself, on one occasion, in June, 1645, attacked it unsuccessfully; and a second attack was made with a like result under the command of the owner of the house, Sir Robert Pye. From this family the poet laureate, Henry James Pye, Esq., was descended. King Charles was at Faringdon after the second battle of Newbury. Near Radcot Bridge, about three miles to the north of Faringdon, was fought the battle between Robert Vere, Duke of Ireland, and the Earl of Derby, afterwards King Henry IV. The parish church, which is dedicated to All Saints, is a large and handsome structure in the Gothic style, and contains many old monuments, described in Ashmole's 'Antiquities of Berkshire.' (Lond. 1719). It has a low square tower, formerly surmounted by a spire, which was destroyed during the Civil War. The vicarage is in the diocese of Salisbury, and its average net income is 265*l*. The parish of Great Faringdon is partly in the hundred of Faringdon and partly in that of Shrivenham. According to the population returns for 1831, the entire parish contained 3033 inhabitants and 6910 statute acres.

There are roads from Faringdon into Gloucestershire by Lechlade; into Wiltshire by Highworth, and another into the same county by Swindon.

On the road from Faringdon to Lechlade, in Gloucestershire, the only places requiring even brief notice, are EATON HASTINGS, a village on the right, about three miles from the former, and Bus-

cot House, about the same distance, situated in a park of 150 acres, near the road, from which it is seen to great advantage. The building was completed in 1783. A short distance from Lechlade we reach the Thames, which is here the boundary of the county, and spanned by a bridge called St. John's bridge.

On the road from Faringdon to Highworth, in Wiltshire, we find, first, Badbury Hill, situated about two miles from the former. Here, almost close to the road, is a Danish camp of a circular form, about 200 yards in diameter, with a ditch about 20 yards wide. Human bones have been found here very frequently. Leland mentions it as a "great dicke wher a fortresse or rather a camp of war, had beene, as some say, diked by the Danes as a sure camp." Mr. Wise, in his letter to Dr. Mead, supposes that the battle of Mons Badonicus, or Bradbury Hill, in the year 520, mentioned by Bede and Gildas, in which Arthur gained his twelfth victory, was fought near the White Horse Hill: this neighbourhood therefore was very probably the scene of the engagement. Two miles farther we find—

Coleshill House, the seat of the Earl of Radnor, a perfect specimen of the style of Inigo Jones, as it was erected from his design in 1650. The elevation is simple, yet imposing,—a perfect quadrangular shape, and divided at a case-ment and two principal stories. There is a happy symmetry observed throughout. The interior contains some good paintings, and is very characteristic of the

tastes of the times, with its ponderous chimney-pieces, cornices, &c., and with the profusion of its carvings and gildings. The grounds are beautiful. The Cole, which most probably gives name to the parish and the house, glides through a valley which skirts the western side of the park. The parish church of COLESHILL is a neat stone building, having a handsome square tower with battlements and pinnacles. In the chancel is a handsome monument to Sir Henry Pratt, bart., who died in 1647. There is a curious circular window in the south aisle, on which the arms of Sir R. Mark Stuart and his lady are represented in painted glass. In the same aisle is an elegant marble cenotaph, by Rysbrach, to the memory of the only daughter of the above-mentioned persons, and wife of Mr. W. Bouverie, afterwards Earl of Radnor. The east window of the chancel contains a fine painting in stained glass, of the Nativity, brought from Angiers, in 1787, by the Earl of Radnor. The south transept is all that remains of a chapel, built about 1499, by Thomas Pleydell-Esq.: it is now fitted up as a pew for Lord Radnor's family. About a mile and a half from Coleshill is Stratton, borough Castle.

On the road to Swindon we find, on the left, LITTLE COXWELL; and, on the right, GREAT COXWELL, each about a mile and a half distant from Faringdon. At the last place is a great barn, built by the abbots of Beaulieu, to whom the manor was granted by King John in 1204. It is a remarkably fine piece of

masonry, measuring 148 feet by 40, with walls four feet thick, and the roof supported by two rows of large upright timbers, resting on massive stone piers.

At Longcot, a hamlet of Shrivenham, on the left of the road, about four miles from Faringdon, is a chapel of ease.

SHRIVENHAM is about five miles from Faringdon. This was anciently a place of considerable note, with a market and a fair, both long since discontinued. The manor was granted by King John to Geoffrey Earl of Perch (1199—1216). The church is a large and handsome Gothic structure. In the interior is a double row of circular columns and arches, extending the whole length of the building, forming aisles both to the nave and to the chancel. The tower in the centre is supported by four pointed arches. There are various monuments of the Barrington family: we may mention that to Viscount Barrington, who died in 1793, and who had filled the distinguished post of Chancellor of the Exchequer; and Admiral Barrington, who acquired considerable reputation by his various naval achievements, particularly in the capture of a French ship of sixty guns, whose flag is preserved here; and in the repulse, at St. Lucia, in 1779, of a very superior French force. There is also a monument to Sir John Wildman, alderman of London and postmaster-general, who died in 1693, and who directed by his will "that if his successors should think fit, there should be some stone, of small price, set near his ashes to signify, without foolish flattery, to his posterity,

that in that age lived a man who spent the best part of his days in prisons, without crimes, being conscious of no offence towards man, for that he so loved his God that he could serve no man's will, and wished the liberty and happiness of his country, and of all mankind." It is also recorded that his son, John Wildman, preferred confinement with his father for many years, whilst a prisoner of state in the Isle of Scilly, in the reign of Charles II., to the enjoyment of his liberty. Becket Park is in this parish. The manor formerly belonged to the Earl of Evreux, from whom it passed into the possession

of the crown, and became a royal residence. King John occasionally visited here. In the reign of Edward III. the manor was in the possession of the family of Becket or Becote, who held lands in Shrivenham by the following singular tenure: Whenever the king in his progresses should pass by Fowyeare's-Mill bridge in Shrivenham two white capons were to be presented with this address, "Ecce, domine, istos duos capones, quos alias habetitis, sed non nunc."* Becket's house is built in the Gothic style.

* Behold, my lord, these two capons, which you shall have another time, but not now.

CHAPTER XI.

OXFORD TO HUNGERFORD.

WANTAGE and several other places on this route are described in former chapters, to which a reference is made at the proper place. This route completes our itinerary of the county so far as the principal turnpike roads are concerned. The Great Western Railway crosses the road from Oxford to Hungerford about two miles north of Wantage, twelve miles from Oxford, and eighteen from Hungerford: the Steventon station is the one nearest the road, being about three miles from East Hanney and five from Wantage.

As far as Besilsleigh the turnpike road is the same as that we have described in the route from Oxford to Faringdon in the previous chapter. We therefore commence from Besilsleigh, and crossing Frilford Heath, we reach Frilford, a hamlet of the parish of MARCHAM, which lies about three miles off on the left on the Abingdon road. Marcham, about three miles from Abingdon, was the seat of the well-known misers, Sir Harvey Elwes, and of his heir John Elwes, Esq., whose life has been so interestingly written by Topham. In the church is a tomb to Sir Richard Corbet, who died in 1403, with his effigies encased on a brass plate; and an ancient

wooden rood loft. On the right of the road, about a mile from Frilford is Garford, also a hamlet of Marcham. About half a mile from Frilford we cross the river Ock, and a mile and a half from this we find

EAST HANNEY, a hamlet of West Hanney, within about four miles from Wantage lying by the road-side. There were here formerly three manors, one of them belonging to the priory of Noyon in Normandy. WEST HANNEY is situated at a distance of about three quarters of a mile on the right of the road, and about three and a half miles north of Wantage. The manor belonged to the alien priory of Newenton-Longueville in Buckinghamshire. The manor of North Denchworth in this parish was purchased of Ralph de Camois, one of the barons opposed to King John, by Adam Fettiplace, who seems to have been the first of that very ancient family who settled in Berkshire. In the church, which contains some Saxon remains, is the tomb of Sir Christopher Lytcoth who was knighted in the camp before Rouen in 1591, by Henry IV. of France. There are various other family memorials. Passing through Grove, a hamlet of Wantage, we find ourselves within a short

distance of that town, which we have described in the previous chapter.

Near the Red House, about four miles from Wantage, our route crosses the ancient Ridge-way, or Ickleton-street; a little off the right branch of which, also on its right, we find Letcombe Castle, an ancient entrenchment situated on a commanding position on the Downs. Its form is irregular, but approaches the circular; it has a double vallum, and altogether encloses an area of about twenty-six acres. The entrenchments and ditches alone contain eight and a half acres. There was an entrance to the camp on the west side. It is supposed to have been originally a British work, and to have been afterwards used by the Romans. LETCOMBE BASSET, a short distance from the castle, derives its latter name from the Basset family, who possessed the manor in the 13th century. Here, in the house of his friend, Mr. Gery, the rector, Dean Swift resided for some time after his unsuccessful endeavour to reconcile the Lords Oxford and Bolingbroke in June, 1714, and wrote his pamphlet, "Free Thoughts on the present state of Affairs," which owing to the death of the Queen (Anne), just at the time, was not published till 1741.

LETCOMBE REGIS is on a road which branches out from that we are pursuing, at the Red House, and is continued toward Faringdon. In direct distance it is only about a mile and a half S.W. of Wantage. It derives its name from the circumstance of its having anciently belonged to the crown as a part of the

royal demesnes. Henry VI., pursuant to the will of his father, gave the manor to the abbot and convent of Westminster. A large portion of the parish was also given by one of the kingly owners to the monastery of Clugny in Burgundy. The manor house, of which remains were existing in the last century, appears to have been an edifice of some importance. It was moated, and had over the gateway a large apartment called the guard-room. Tradition assigns the erection of the building to King John. The Berks canal, and a branch of the Ock pass through Letcombe. There is a seat here called Benhams.

Returning to the Red House, and continuing our route toward Hungerford, we pass on the left FARNBOROUGH, which lies about two miles distant from the road, in the hundred of Compton. GREAT or NORTH FAWLEY is about three quarters of a mile from the road on the right. The manor belonged from an early period to the nuns of Ambresbury. Woolly Park on the left, is in the parish of Chaddleworth. There was here formerly a free chapel. The house, built in 1690, was much altered in 1799. BRIGHT WALTHAM, in the hundred of Faircross, is still farther from the road, nearly in the same direction. It is very commonly called Brikleton. The manor belonged to the abbey of Battle in Sussex. In the church is an ancient font with circular interlaced arches.

CHADDLEWORTH is about a mile from the road on the same side, about seven miles from Wantage. The manor was given by William the Conqueror to

Robert D'Oyley : it afterwards belonged to the mother of Edward I., who bought it for the support of her daughter Eleanor of Brittany, then a nun of Ambresbury ; the reversion was settled on the princess and convent. The singular custom by which a widow recovered her life-interest in her husband's estates, when forfeited by incontinency, as described in our notice of Enborne, also prevailed here. The church presents some Saxon remains.

About a mile and a half from Chaddleshworth is a place called ELLENSFORD-MERE, in which is a farm-house in a retired spot among woods. This is the site of the monastery of Poghly (itself occupying the site of an ancient hermitage) built by Ralph de Chaddleshworth in 1160. The canons were of the Augustin

order. The monastery was suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey among the other smaller monasteries dissolved in 1532, when its revenues were about 71*l.* per annum.

The two Sheffords we noticed in the route from Newbury to Lambourn (chap. vii.). Here we cross the river Lambourn, between which and Hungerford we find Newtown, a large tithing of Hungerford, and Eddington House in the hamlet of Eddington, which it is alleged is the ancient Ethandane, where King Alfred gained a decisive victory over the Danes, though Eddington near Westbury in Wilts is supposed by others to be the Ethendane of the Saxon Chronicle.

Hungerford, rather more than thirty miles from Oxford, is noticed in the last chapter.

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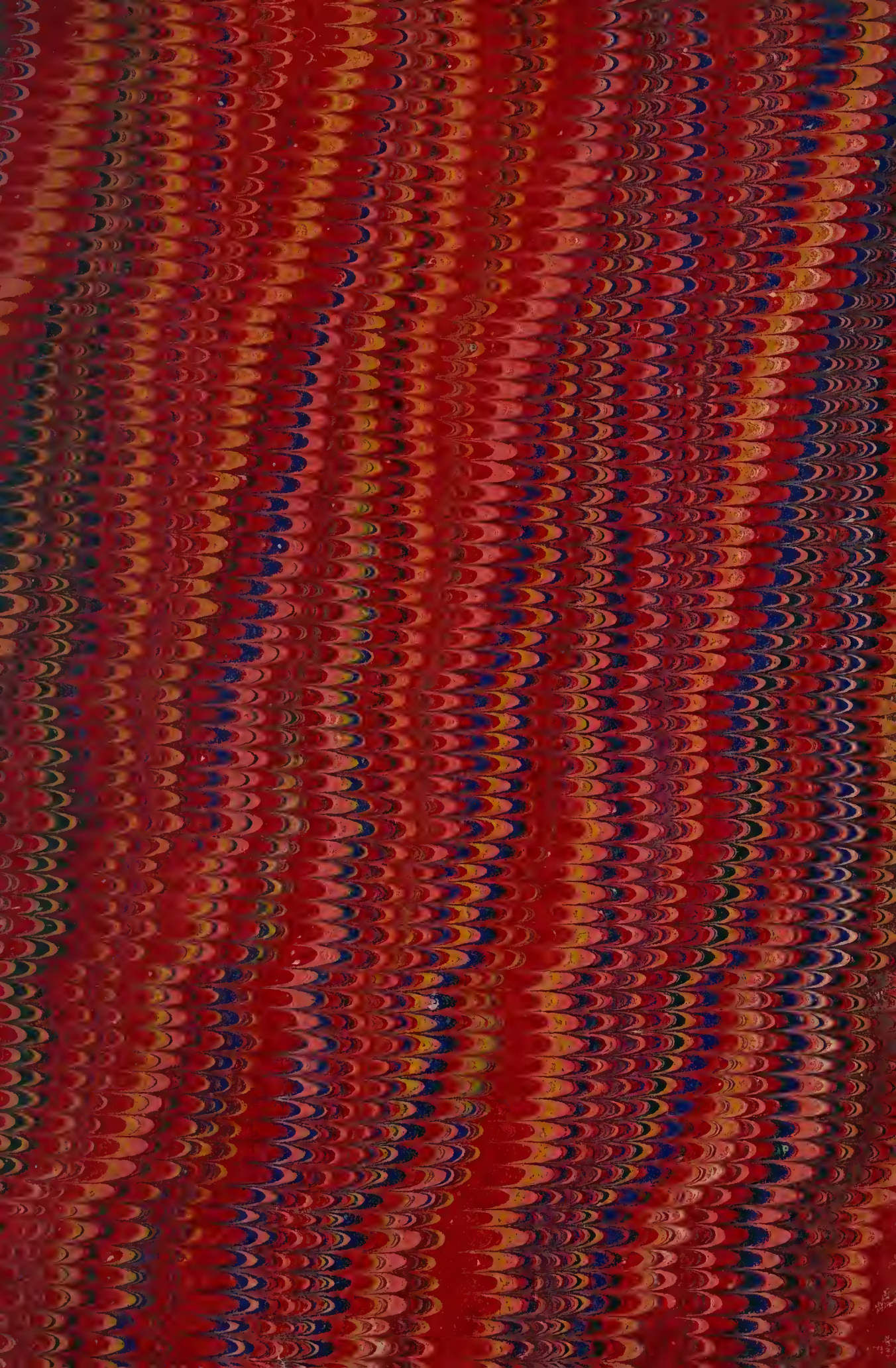




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